



Young singers contest.
(See page 6 for details).

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 2012

COULD YOU BE IN THIS PICTURE?



THIS photograph was
taken at a street party
in Porthcawl around
the time of Queen
Elizabeth II's corona-
tion in 1952, possibly
on New Road or at
Newton.

If you are in the pic-
ture, or if you have any
information regarding
when and where the
party is taking place,
and why, please contact
Keith Morgan on 01656
788150.

GRAFFITI ARRESTS

TWO Bridgend men
have been arrested in a
clampdown on graffiti
in the area.

Police reported that
two men, aged 22 and 23
years, were seen in Park
Street in the early hours
of Tuesday, January 17.

They were arrested
under the charge of
going equipped to cause
criminal damage, a
police spokeswoman

stated. Officers were
also focusing on the
Pencoed area, and are
hunting those responsi-
ble for another recent
spate of graffiti at build-
ings including Pencoed
Swimming Pool and the
New Surgery.

Contact Bridgend
Police Station on 101, or
Crimestoppers (anony-
mously) on 0800 555
111.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY IN THE BOROUGH

'We must learn the lessons of the past' - WARNS BRIDGEND COUNCIL LEADER

**YOUNG people in
the county borough
have taken part in a
moving ceremony
to honour the six
million Jewish
victims of Nazi geno-
cide during the last
war.**

It was organised by
Bridgend County
Borough Council
(BCBC) in the council
chamber, to mark
Holocaust Memorial
Day on January 27, the
date on which the Nazi
death camp, Auschwitz-
Birkenau was liberated.

Holocaust Memorial
Day commemorates the
victims, honours sur-

vivors and commits to
tackling prejudice, dis-
crimination and racism
in the present day.

A film involving five
year-10 pupils from
Maesteg
Comprehensive -
Anabell Rees, Cerys
Mitchell, James
Pritchard, Madison
Thomas and Iwan
Thomas - explored
links between this
year's theme of 'Speak
Up Speak Out' and their
own work with BCBC's
peer mediation project.

It also featured the
pupils' moving inter-
pretation of the famous
Holocaust poem *First
They Came*.

Film maker Ed

Sinclair said: "I wanted
to create a moving yet
inspirational film for the
audience to personally
relate to, no matter what
their background.

"I consider it a real
privilege to be able to
recognise and remember
those in the past who
stood up for what was
right."

During the ceremony,
the traditional
Holocaust Memorial
Day 'Seven Statements
of Commitment' were
read by members of the
community, a candle of
remembrance lit, and a
minute's silence held to
remember all those lost
in the Holocaust and
other genocides.

Angharad Roberts, a
harpist from the coun-
cil's music service,
opened and closed the
ceremony, which was
hosted by Bridgend
Youth Theatre's Lowri
Izzard, 18, and Joe
Wiltshire-Smith, 16.

Guests represented a
wide cross-section of
the community and
included South Wales
Police, religious and
community groups,
charities and campaign-
ers.

Speaking at the
event, BCBC leader
Coun Mel Nott, said:
"We come together for
Holocaust Memorial



Pupils from Maesteg
Comprehensive
involved in the
Holocaust Memorial
Day film.

Day because we are
committed to remember-
ing the millions who
have been murdered in
the Holocaust and the
genocides in Armenia,
Cambodia, Rwanda,
Bosnia and Darfur.
"But we also want
this to be about learn-
ing lessons from the
Holocaust and applying
them to the present day,
to create a safer, better
future for all."



The Youth Theatre's Lowri Izzard and
Joe Wiltshire-Smith at the event.

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Arrest after drugs raid

A 48-year-old man from
Bridgend has been
arrested on suspicion of
possession and intent to
supply a Class A sub-
stance.

Police said that a man
had been found in pos-
session of Class A drugs
with an estimated street
value of between
£30,000 and £50,000,
and that officers also
recovered a large amount
of cash and jewellery
from a property.

The arrest was part of
Operation Atlas - a day-
long drugs operation that
saw a number of war-
rants executed across the
Bridgend, Maesteg and
Porthcawl areas.

The multi-agency
operation was supported
by the Drug
Interventions Programme
(DIP), Bridgend
Community
Safety
Partnership and British
Transport Police.

'MP should back government reforms'

I FIND it incredible that Madeleine Moon MP has the front to criticise the UK Coalition Government as being a 'danger to the fabric of democracy' - when the Labour Government, of which she was a part, decimated parliamentary democracy during their 13-year tenure in office.

Tony Blair's sofa-style Government treated Parliament with contempt; Gordon Brown's coronation treated the electorate with contempt; and the Labour-backed unions' block vote to elect Ed Miliband to the leadership of the Labour Party, contrary to the wishes of the majority of individual Labour Party members and parliamentarians, is hardly democracy in action.

In contrast, the UK Government has a wide-ranging programme to improve the political system it inherited from Labour and is bringing in reforms which will make our political system more accountable and more transparent.

They include fixed-term Parliaments; a reduction in the number of MPs and more equal electorates; a power of recall, enabling voters to force a by-election in cases of serious wrongdoing; reducing electoral fraud by speeding up the implementation of individual voter registration; reforming parliamentary privilege; cutting the perks and bureaucracy associated with Parliament - and publishing the salaries of the highest-earning civil servants. The list goes on.

Instead of opposing much-needed reforms which will restore the trust of the British electorate with the political process, after the widespread abuse of the expenses system, perhaps Madeleine Moon's efforts could be devoted to encouraging her Labour colleagues on Bridgend County Borough Council to pay more attention to democracy; to be more transparent and open with the people who elect them - when it comes to the thorny issues of Porthcawl regeneration and job evaluation - rather than burying their heads in the sand.

Alex Williams, Pencoed Conservative councillor.

PRIVATE SECTOR CLINICS FLAW

IT appears that Andrew Lansley, the Secretary of State for Health, is proposing that private sector clinics be allowed to 'sub-contract' work from the NHS.

This may or may not be a good idea - but, according to the article, he is not going to insist on their having professional indemnity insurance.

Such a policy will leave those using the clinics at risk if they fail to carry out an operation properly, in exactly the same way that the recent problem over private-sector breast implants

has left people suffering and unable to get compensation, or leaving the taxpayer to pay through the NHS.

There is an old infantry officers' joke about the cavalry officer who was so stupid even the others noticed.

If it was only a matter of changing this to 'the politician who was so stupid...' it would not be a problem, but if implemented, this policy will leave everyone at risk.

I do think that everyone should apply whatever pressure they can on the Government to get this insane policy changed.

Gavin Davies Penmark

BRIDGE CLUB

THE Bridgend Bridge club results for Wednesday, January 25, are as follows: First, Mary Moore and Di Jones; second, Liam Sheridan and Andrew Scott; third, Dave Barwood and Geoff Barnes.

Friday, January 27, north/south: First, Mary Moore and Peter Bugden; second, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; third, Irene Thomas and Bill Turner. East/west: First, Alan and Sheena Gray; second, Marjorie Morris

and Linda Pinnock; third, Jane Brook and Wendy Williams.

Regular club nights are on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Noltan Church Hall. There will be lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7.30pm, and improvers on Wednesdays at 2.30pm, all welcome.

For more information telephone: John Beard on 01446 771445, Steve Burgoine on 01656 661968 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'People Power can end menace of stray horses'

FOR far too long, communities across south Wales have been plagued by the menace of wild horses roaming free and unchecked through lanes, estates, commons, school grounds; indeed, anywhere that provides the opportunity of something for them to eat.

Considerable damage has been caused to gardens, property, fencing, school grounds, etc, and the time has come to call a halt to this situation once and for all.

Within BCBC, particularly in the Cefn Glas, Bryntirion, Laleston, Pen-y-Fai areas, and in the neighbouring Vale villages, straying horses have become a daily menace.

A solution is needed, and needed fast, if we are to ensure that no serious injury - or worse - is causing to local residents who

may encounter wild horses on the highways, pavements or in enclosed spaces.

These horses are generally very hungry and will stop at nothing in those circumstances.

Bryntirion Comprehensive School, for example, has had to spend tens of thousands of pounds attempting to repair the damage to their school fields - and still the menace remains a constant problem. This is wasted money spent that might otherwise be put to better use educating our children.

The laws surrounding this issue are extremely weak and it is no simple task to eradicate the problem.

Both BCBC and the Vale Council are working very hard to try and find a solution, but it is an uphill battle.

In my view, only 'People Power' will help to solve this problem and I urge any local resident who encounters problems

and distress from this menace to keep a regular log of incidents, dates, times, locations, etc, so that if and when the local councils can find a way to act against the perpetrators, we can be fully armed with evidence from all quarters.

I am assured that the issue is being dealt with at the highest levels - both within councils and the South Wales Police.

There is also involvement with the Welsh Assembly in an attempt to find ways to toughen up the law, so that nobody is above it, when it comes to the stable and democratic will of the people to go about their everyday business unimpeded by this danger.

I urge everyone involved to redouble their efforts against this menace in our midst.

Councillor David Unwin, Bridgend County Borough Council.

FLY-GRAZING DEBATE: 'Special task force is needed'

IWRITE as chairman of Maesteg Animal Welfare Society, which works hard throughout the year to protect animals.

I would like to commend the Vale Council, as reported in last week's GEM, for its decisive action in rounding up 60 horses left to 'fly graze' on other people's land.

These horses are not abandoned in the true sense of the word - they are all owned - but are left to fend for themselves or starve.

The Vale Council has now taken these innocent creatures to horse sanctuaries in England.

I contrast this action with that of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) which, as far as I know, has signally failed to take similar action.

The result was that last winter, we had hundreds of starving horses which had been dumped in the Pen-y-fai-Llangwydd area constantly breaking out in their desperate quest for fodder, causing distress to all animal lovers locally and creating a highway hazard in the

process. I ask these questions - Why did BCBC not use the same powers last year that the Vale Council have used this year to tackle this problem?

And why are they not acting this year to deal with a similar problem on their patch, albeit on a smaller scale?

It is time the council and police, together with the RSPCA, formed a special task force to tackle this situation.

I know that Carwyn Jones AM has met residents affected by this problem and I call upon him as First Minister to

act in this matter - for the sake of these animals who have been bred for profit and find themselves no longer worthy of the cost of their feed before being sold for dog food.

Jayne Isaac, Maesteg.

A spokesman for Bridgend County Borough Council said: "As this is a regional issue which affects the whole of south Wales, Bridgend County Borough Council is working in close partnership with South Wales Police, the Vale Council and organisations such as the RSPCA.

"We are constantly monitoring the wellbeing of the horses, which are being kept on areas of privately-owned land, and we are liaising closely with both the landowner and the owner of the horses, to remind them of their various responsibilities.

"Independent equine vets and RSPCA officials have confirmed that there are no current welfare concerns, and that the animals have access to food and water.

"Together with our partners, we are working towards a long-term solution - but in the meantime, we will continue to act within the remit of the current legislation."

Councillors act to close gate to abandoned mine site



PHOTOGRAPH by NATASHA HIRST.

THREE local Labour councillors have taken action over an abandoned opencast mine in Kenfig Hill.

They plan to secure what they say is a dangerous site, by locking an open gate which has allowed children to access the area - despite councillors raising awareness about public concerns last November. Pyle ward borough councillor, Clive James, was joined by Coun Pauline James and Community Council vice-chair Luke Ellis to place a lock on a gate.

Coun Clive James said: "I am frankly shocked that any company would allow this gate to remain wide open for two months, when we were promised action to remedy this matter.

"In the end, after seeking advice, we decided to take the tools down there and protect our local children with a lock we provided."

Coun Pauline James added: "As parents and grandparents, we don't understand why they would ignore the public's concerns about this open gate, which is sec-

onds from a deadly drop into an unsecured void, with no safety equipment or life rings anywhere. Protecting our children is our main concern."

Coun Luke Ellis, vice chair of Pyle Community Council, said:

"Local Mams and Dads will be pleased to hear that this most open of the unsecured entrances to this deadly void, has finally been made safer, though only through direct action from Clive James and your local Labour community councillors."

FREE MUSIC

EWENNY Arts Festival at Ewenny Priory Church presents Atlantic College International Choir (under musical director Mr Chris Davies) on February 9 at 7.30pm.

It features sacred music, spirituals, madrigals and international music from around the globe.

Admission is free, but donations are welcomed. Further information from Helen (01656 667047) or Mari (01656 664105).

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 9)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
02 Thur	00.45	7.3	13.33	7.2
03 Fri	02.18	7.5	15.07	7.5
04 Sat	03.41	7.8	16.11	8.0
05 Sun	04.34	8.2	17.01	8.4
06 Mon	05.12	8.8	17.42	9.1
07 Tues	05.53	9.3	18.22	9.4
08 Wed	06.36	9.9	19.01	9.8
09 Thur	07.17	10.1	19.39	10.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

CALL FOR RETHINK AFTER FORCE NUMBERS PLUMMET 'I WILL VOTE AGAINST THE POLICE CUTS'

— vows Ogmores MP

THE MP for Ogmores, Huw Irranca-Davies, is calling on the Government to rethink its approach to policing — after latest figures show police numbers have fallen to the lowest for a decade, including the loss of 158 in south Wales since March 2010.

"The figures show that there are now 8,000

fewer officers on the streets, at a time when personal crime, which includes theft and violence, has gone up by a startling 11 per cent — the biggest increase in a decade.

"Labour is calling for the Government to reopen the police funding settlement when it is debated in Parliament next month," Huw Irranca-Davies said.

"People across Bridgend county borough will have real concerns about the loss of 158 officers here in south Wales. The deepest cuts to policing budgets will hit this year and HMIC estimate the loss of 16,000 officers through this Parliament.

POLICE VALUED

"People across Bridgend value the work that local police officers do in our community and I will be voting against the Government's police cuts next month."

He was supported by Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper MP, who said:

"The scale of government cuts has led to the biggest fall in national police numbers in decades at the same time as we are seeing the biggest increase in personal crime.

"David Cameron and Theresa May are letting down communities and turning their backs on the police. They should be battling to cut crime, but they are just cutting the police instead.

CRIME RISE

"Police numbers have fallen to the lowest for a decade, with 8,000 fewer officers since the election and 6,000 since last year alone.

At the same time personal crime including theft and violence has gone up by 11 per cent — the biggest increase in a decade.

"The Home Secretary's 20 per cent cuts go much further than the 12 per cent recommended by the independent inspectorate and supported by Labour.

"The Prime Minister's decision to cut policing too far and too fast when many crimes are increasing is putting communities at risk. MPs of all parties should vote against the scale of Government's cuts to their local police force in Parliament on February 8."



ABOVE: Cdt Cpl Danielle Young and Cdt Flt Sgt Nico Fitzgibbon.

Awards for two Cadets

CADET Corporal Danielle Young and Cadet Flight Sergeant Nico Fitzgibbon both received the Air Officer Commanding Certificate of Good Service at the Kenfig Hill Air Cadets annual presentation evening on January 27.

Taking place in the Selwyn Samuel Centre in Llanelli, the evening started with a welcome from Wg Cdr Mike Stone, which was then delivered in Welsh by Pilot Officer P Greene.

More than 50 awards were presented during the evening, including James Townsend receiving the award for the highest-scoring individual in the Aircraft Recognition under-16s competition at the Wing Field Day.

Mrs Lindsay Thomas, secretary of the civilian committee and squadron media communications officer, received the Air



Lindsay Thomas with her Air Cadets media communications award.

Media Communications Award. If you are male or female and at least 13 years old, then why not join 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC? We are also looking for adult staff members and civilian committee members.

Parades are on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7pm to 9.30pm. For more information, telephone 01656 670125.

'Beware PC scam' says Trading Standards

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's Trading Standards Service is warning residents to be aware of a scam involving so-called protection for their PC.

"It involves an unsolicited phone call, from a person claiming to be from Microsoft with an offer to provide your PC with protection against viruses and identity theft," a spokeswoman said.

This is done by allowing the caller to gain remote access to the computer — but if the consumer does not agree to pay a 'service charge' of up to £200 then the caller claims the PC will no longer be accessible.

BCBC Deputy Leader David Sage, whose Cabinet portfolio includes Trading Standards, warned residents to be on their guard against this type of scam.

He said: "This increasingly popular scam has reappeared in recent weeks. By complying with the requests of the scammers, there is a very real possibility that your personal data can be stolen and used by others.

"We would not advise anyone to allow access to their personal computers, mainly due to the

secure information such as bank details and telephone numbers that can potentially be stolen. Microsoft is very unlikely to call you to discuss the security of your PC therefore we'd advise you not to engage in conversation with any unusual callers."

And it seems anyone can be targeted — even BCBC's own Senior Fair Trading Officer, Ellis Roberts, who received a call just like this. Ellis said: "The caller's tone seemed very sincere and genuine at first.

However, it became obvious that he was rushing me to make a decision.

"The more questions I asked the more irate he became. When I told him I was operating a scam, he shouted at me and disconnected the call!"

"These are typical actions of people who are intent on making money by methods of theft and fraud. Our advice is to disconnect the call immediately."

If you have received a call of this nature or know of anyone who may have lost money to this type of scam then please report the matter to Consumer Direct on 0808 156 6747, or via their website: consumerdirect.gov.uk.

Recycling festive trees raises £1,500 for charities

LOCAL residents have raised £1,500 for charities — by recycling their Christmas trees.

It followed the launch of a Bridgend County Borough Council's scheme asking residents to put out their Christmas trees for collection with their usual weekly recycling, in exchange for a minimum £3 donation to charity.

A spokeswoman explained that the collections were made by BCBC's recycling partners May Gurney and were funded through a Sustainable Waste Management grant so that all donations could go to nominated charities.

More than 300 trees were collected between January 9 and 20 and the money will now be split between the Macmillan Nurses at Y Bwthyn Newydd, and the Mayor's Charity Appeal, which this year is in aid of GLAZE Prostate Charity Wales, the

Bridgend and District Stroke Club and Bridgend County Riding for the Disabled.

The trees were taken to BCBC's highways recycling centre for chipping and composting.

Coun Phil White, BCBC cabinet member for communities, said: "This is the first time we have tried kerbside Christmas tree recycling and we're pleased that several hundred households took advantage of the scheme and helped raise money for some very worthy good causes. Thank you to everyone who started 2012 in such a green and generous way.

"Now we know that residents are willing to take part, we can look at how we can make more households aware for next Christmas and increase both the number of trees we collect and recycle, and the amount we raise for local charities."

'Census email is a hoax'

AN email being circulated in the name of National Statistician, Jill Matheson, is a scam, Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards Service has warned.

The hoax email entitled 'Population Census: a message to everyone — act now' demands individuals provide further personal information, supposedly for the census and threatens fines for non-compliance.

But it has no connection whatsoever with the National Statistician, the 2011 Census or the Office for National Statistics.

BCBC Deputy Leader

Councillor David Sage warned: "The ONS have advised that the links in the email could download malware to any computer where the user clicks on the links. This could put your personal data, including financial information, at risk.

"They have asked us to spread the word that anyone receiving this, or similar emails, should delete them, not open any links and certainly not provide any information."

You can report receipt of any such suspicious emails at www.action-fraud.org.uk or Consumer Direct on 0808 156 6747, or via their website: consumerdirect.gov.uk.

Quiz League round-up

LAST week, it was suggested that the champions of both divisions were, more or less, decided and both teams were unassailable.

For the second division at least, that's still true, but for division one the phrase 'egg on your face' springs to mind, as the leaders, Llangwydd Arms, lost at home to Oldcastle A by 50 points to 42.

Not only that, but second place Tyrisha Nomads faced Laleston Inn A (who lost all their nine league games this season) and were beaten 43-37.

True, they were without veteran Steve Williams and a man short, but most people thought this was a 'no-

brainer".

That result allowed Oldcastle A to move into second place a couple of points behind Llangwydd.

Tyrisha Royals did well to win at Mackworth Arms 45-38 and the other divisional match resulted in a close win for Crown Inn A, who beat Six Bells 46-43.

In division two, it was the usual trampling of opponents by Tondur Railway Club. This week it was Pyle RFC's turn to suffer a 57-32 mauling.

Then came four teams, Laleston Inn B (who had a bye); Coychurch Wanderers, 44-40 winners at Pheasant Gamekeepers; Oldcastle B, who beat Greenmeadow 46-41;

and Pheasant Poachers who lost 46-40 away to Crown Inn B.

Here are your weekly posers:

1. Which English king was killed by a bolt from a crossbow?
2. England's largest forest lies almost entirely within the county of Northumberland. What is it called?
3. Which swimmer has the nickname 'The Baltimore Bullet'?
4. Which 2008 film starring Tom Cruise is based on a plot to assassinate Hitler?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

- Answers:
1. Richard I.
 2. Michael Phelp.
 3. Michael Phelp.
 4. Valkyrie.

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CHOIR IN FINE VOICE FOR MAYOR'S CHARITY NIGHT

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir with musical director Shelley Thomas-Brown.



by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Cowbridge Male Voice Choir were the stars of an excellent concert last Saturday (January 28) – a charity event that also featured three local young soloists.

The concert, in aid of The Wales Air Ambulance and Marie Curie Cancer Care, the charities being supported this year by the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Andy Banks, was well supported and came close to filling the new theatre at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The event was also supported by the Mayor of the Vale, Coun John Clifford, the Lord Lieutenant of south Glamorgan, Dr Peter Beck, Vale AM Jane Hutt and a host of mayors from towns in the Vale.

The choir, under the musical direction of Shelley Thomas-Brown, and accompanied on piano by Sandra Williams, sang five pieces in the first half, and another seven in the second.

Highlights included old favourites such as 'Cwm Rhondda', 'I Bob un S'n Fyddion', and 'American Trilogy' while the Russian piece 'Cavalry of the Steppes' was very impressive.

They finished with an emotional rendition of 'Morte Criste', and were greeted with a prolonged ovation.

There was plenty of applause too for the three soloists, all winners in last year's 'Music in the Vale' competition.

There were two examples of the wealth of talent being nurtured by the Royal College of Music and Drama in Cardiff in Grace Wain, a vibrant mezzosoprano with an impressive range, and Joe Atkin-Reeves, who plays the clarinet and alto-saxo-



ABOVE: Vale AM Jane Hutt flanked by Coun Andy Banks and his wife Gill (left), and Vale Mayor Coun John Clifford and his wife Christine (right).



ABOVE (left to right): Dinas Powys Mayor Coun Chris Williams and wife Jacqui, Llantwit Major Mayor Coun Eddie Williams and wife Karen, and Barry Mayor Coun Bronwen Brooks and husband Wayne.

BELOW: The soloists (left to right): Grace Wain, Joe Atkin-Reeves, Hannah Clist, with accompanist Susan Bird.

phone in both classical and jazz styles.

Grace sang two songs, 'Chanson Triste' by Henri Duparc and 'Ching-a-ring Chaw' – a real tongue-twister by Aaron Copland.

Joe performed one long piece in three movements, the jazz-influenced 'Fuzzy Bird Sonata' by the composer Yoshimatsu.

Grace and Joe were accompanied by Sue Bird, a concert pianist who now lives in the Vale, and she also accompanied the third soloist, her daughter, cellist Hannah Clist, who is in her final year at Cowbridge Comprehensive.

Hannah performed 'Chant du Minestri' by Glasunov, and 'Requibros' by Casado.

She started learning the cello at the age of five, and has already put together an impressive musical CV.



This year, she is fundraising after being invited to take masterclasses at El Escorial (Madrid) in the Royal Palace.

In fact, she will be back on stage next week (February 7-11), as a member of the school orchestra for the drama department's production of the ground-breaking musical *Sweeney Todd*.

SHOUT speaker

THE next monthly meeting of Porthcawl SHOUT Forum will be held at Trinity Church, Porthcawl, on Friday, February 3 at 2pm.

Chairman Des Rees will welcome all those members of the public who wish to discuss matters intended to improve the town of Porthcawl and especially the concerns of the older community.

Guest speaker Mr Chris Williams, a consultant ophthalmologist, will be providing a powerpoint presentation on the subject of 'Macular Degeneration'.

Bridgend MP signs Book of Commitment

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon pledged her commitment to Holocaust Memorial Day – by signing a Book of Commitment in the House of Commons that honours those who died during the genocides.

January 27 marked the 67th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau – the Nazi concentration and extermination camp which was the site of the largest mass murder in history – and in the weeks running up to the day, the Holocaust Educational Trust placed a Book of Commitment in the House of Commons giving MPs the chance to honour those who were persecuted and killed and encouraging constituents to actively speak out against prejudice and bigotry today.

Ms Moon MP paid



Madeleine Moon MP signs the Holocaust Memorial Day Book of Commitment in the House of Commons.

tribute to the extraordinary men and women who, having survived the Holocaust, work to educate young people about what they endured through the Holocaust Educational Trust's Outreach programme.

Thousands of commemorative events are arranged by schools, faith groups and community organisations around the day. This year, people will also be

encouraged to take a stand against racism and prejudice today – and to speak out against hatred wherever they encounter it.

Ms Moon said: "Holocaust Memorial Day is an important opportunity to remember the victims of genocide. I encourage all constituents to mark the day and to commit to 'speaking up and speaking out' against prejudice today."

Kacey seeks kind owner

"HELLO, I'm Kacey, and I have been at the Bridgend Adoption centre for five long months now.

"I am a little shy around other cats and as you can imagine, this is not the best place for me.

"I am absolutely lovely with people and would make a wonderful companion. I would like a home where I can be the only paws!

"Please come and say hello. I am staying in Ellen's Lodge at the moment. Thanks."

Kacey

• Contact Cats Protection on 01656 724396, or email bridgend@cats.org.uk



Who wants to build what and where?

Kings Security Systems – Spar, 44 Llangwydd Road, Bridgend – Internally illuminated ATM surround with integral illuminated decal to advertise the ATM use.

ESA Tree Care – Y Llety, Heol yr Ysgol – Crown lift and removal of dead and unsafe branches and removal of overhanging branches.

Mr Edward Paul Williams – Tynnewydd Farmhouse, Spion Kop, Ogmere Vale – Take down two trees and crown reduce canopies by 30 per cent and remove lower limbs to allow light through.

Mrs J Fowlds – 10 David Street, Blaengarw – Two storey rear extension.

Mr Iwan Adams – 2 Port Terrace, Maesteg – Extension to rear to provide bedroom/utility room/dining room.

Greenbuild Wales Ltd – Plot adjacent 33 Duffryn Oaks Drive, Pencoe – Erection of three-storey detached building.

Playdays Nursery – 53 Commercial Street, Maesteg – Replacement windows and external doors (article 4 direction).

Kings Security Systems – Spar, 44 Llangwydd Road, Bridgend – Install ATM (cash machine) through new laminate panel to replace existing glazing panel within aluminium frame.

Mr Michael Clemett – 2 Hillcrest, Pen-y-Fai – Erect cottage on land west of Hillcrest Bungalow.

garage and parking.

Mr Richard Jones – Fernhollows, Glynogwr, Blackmill Road, Bridgend – Construct attached garage and additional living room to side elevations.

Mr Christopher Jones – Land at side of 5 Vale Reach, Penprysg Road, Pencoe – Include land into curtilage of dwelling to be used as domestic garden.

Mr Gerald Cumpstone – 40 Brynteg Avenue, Bridgend – UPVC lean-to at rear of property.

Mr P Green – Land adjacent 50-52 Angleton Green, Penyfai – New four-bed dwelling.

Canola House Residential Home – Canola House Residential Home, Heol Canola, Sarn – Single storey extension to kitchen and dining room.

Neath Port Talbot CBC – Land west of Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam – Request for screening option for proposed windfarm (tip height of 100 metres).

Mrs H Godding – 12 School Terrace, North Cornelly – Rear shower room extension and associated works.

Mr L Danter – 3 Hillcrest, Penyfai – Three detached dwellings in rear garden.

Valleys to Coast Housing – The Nurseries, site off The Mercies and 12-15 The Mercies, Porthcawl – 10 new dwellings with access road, widen part existing access road and new off street parking spaces to four existing dwellings.

Stagecoach students celebrate LAMDA examination success



Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge students with their LAMDA certificates.



STUDENTS at Stagecoach Theatre Arts, Bridgend and Cowbridge, are celebrating record results in their recent London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) examinations.

Forty children, aged from six to 16, took an exam in 'acting' or 'speaking of verse and prose' – and all passed – maintaining the school's 100 per cent pass rate with consistently high marks. The children were assessed on knowledge, technique and interpretation of their performance, and received a certificate

and written review from the external examiner.

Stagecoach Principal Helene Reynolds said: "We offer LAMDA awards in addition to our weekly drama, dance and singing classes. Students can choose to take a LAMDA award to gain an accredited qualification, with the higher grades gaining UCAS points for university entry.

"We are pleased Stagecoach can provide this opportunity for our local children, and are delighted by their fantastic results."

40th anniversary for local Welsh folk dance group

A LOCAL Welsh folk dance group is celebrating its 40th year – and founder Mel Evans is still a stalwart member.

Dawnsyr Gwerin Pen y Fai first started in a scout hall in Pen y Fai, but now meets in Bryntirion. Over the years, the group has danced at numerous festivals in Wales, the UK and in Europe – performing a varied and exciting repertoire.

Nowadays, the group practices in Bryntirion, and they are celebrating their 40 years together with a twmpath at Brackla Community Hall this Saturday (February 4) at 8pm.

For more information on the group, contact Ceri Platts on 07976 594066.

Legion says a big 'thank you'

THE Royal British Legion has thanked people in Bridgend and local villages who helped the local branch raise £40,200.81 for the Poppy appeal.

A spokesman for the Bridgend branch said: "There are still those who have not donated who had wreaths, and it would be appreciated if they

could do so as soon as possible.

"Thanks go to Bridgend Eye Clinic, all the charity organisers in Asda, Tesco's, Sainsbury's, Rhiw Centre and Bridgend Designer Outlet.

"Without the help of volunteers, this fantastic amount would not have been raised."

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING LOOKS AT BOROUGH HOUSING ISSUES

DELEGATES from across Europe spent three days in Bridgend county borough for an event aimed at sharing ideas to make social housing more sustainable and efficient, and to encourage greater citizen engagement.

The grant-funded seminar was part of the Urbact II CASH scheme (Cities Action For Sustainable Housing) which is looking at ways of tackling fuel poverty, creating more sustainable, affordable housing and

reducing CO2 emissions and energy consumption.

The Bridgend event provided an opportunity for European visitors to speak to local residents who have been involved in home energy efficiency improvements and to develop new methods for involving people in planning for the future.

Coun Phil White, BCBC cabinet member for communities, said: "This was a chance for us to share ideas and good practice. We are committed to working with communities to improve their homes and their

local environment and we understand the importance of building strong and positive relationships to do this."

Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones said: "This conference is very timely as the Welsh Government is looking at bringing forward a Sustainable Development Bill.

"I'm extremely pleased that such a prestigious European project has chosen Bridgend as a partner, and I extend a warm welcome to visitors who are joining us this week from across Europe."

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NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Choir's golden year
COR Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male voice choir) came into existence as the Garw Glee Party on August 30, 1962 in the Blaengarw Ambulance Hall. The first music it learnt was 'O, Peaceful Night,' under the baton of the founder and musical director, Mr Ieuan Rhys Williams.

It held its first local concert in the Nebo Chapel Blaengarw in March 1963 and its first performance in England was in Redditch, Birmingham in 1965. Even in those early years, the choir realised its music was of sufficient merit to enter eisteddfodau, the first being the Loughor Eisteddfod in 1966. By 1969, the choir had progressed sufficiently to win the Cwmbrân Eisteddfod.

In 1970, the choir made its first visit to Scotland (Whitburn) and in 1972 its tenth anniversary was celebrated in the Noddfa Chapel, Pontycymer. There were guest appearances by Morlais and Pontypridd Male Voice Choirs, and the Bridgend Police Choir, with a recording being produced of the concert.

In 1974, the choir achieved success at the Rhydan (Amanford) Eisteddfod – despite the fact that its membership had depleted to 22! A recruitment drive followed and was so successful that by 1978, the Garw Glee Party was able to register as the Cór Meibion Cwm Garw.

The latter years of the 1970s and the early 1980s included concerts with the Welsh Guards in 1979 and 1982, the first of a series of concerts in Salisbury and the 'The Festival of One Thousand Voices' at the Albert Hall in '79, '82, '84, and '87. The success of the choir was celebrated with the making of a record in 1987 with the Morriston (Swansea) Silver Band.

There followed visits to Elmstein (Germany) choir festival and it competed annually in the Miners' Eisteddfod in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

In 1986, the choir won first prize with its renderings of Mozart's 'Ave Verum Corpus' and the 'Gloria' from the 12th Requiem Mass.

In the summer of 1987, the choir performed with Mike Doyle and a bevy of lovely ladies in Porthcawl's most successful summer season for years.

In 1991, Ieuan Rhys Williams retired as musical director due to failing health, and was succeeded by baritone Bryan Young.

Under his directorship, the choir has won the Miners' Eisteddfod, Porthcawl in 1992 and 93. Over the years, the accompanists have been Mavis Roberts, Michael Davies, Russell Watts, Naomi Perkins, Mrs Jean Davies, Derek Jones, Mrs Valerie Francis and finally Mrs Margaret Rich.

This year, the choir is celebrating the 50th anniversary since its formation.

The choir welcomes visitors and new members at rehearsals in Pontycymer RFC on Monday and Wednesday evenings between 7pm-8.30pm.

Carers' centre

BRIDGEND Carers' Charity located in 87 Park Street, Bridgend (telephone 01656 658479), is a social centre for people who look after their parents, disabled children, friends or neighbours.

Today there will be an outreach group in Trinity Church Hall, Porthcawl between 10am and 1pm.

Tomorrow, there will be a 'looking after me' course between 10.30am and 1.30pm, will help carers look after their own health while caring for others. Call Paula for more information.

On February 6, between 10am and 1pm, and February 8, 1pm to 4pm, drop-in facilities are being provided for a sociable meeting with others in the same circumstances.

St Clare's twins toilets with Burundi

PORTHCAWL'S St Clare's school has twinned one of its toilets with a latrine in Burundi, one of the world's poorest countries, as part of the Flush Away Poverty scheme.

This raises funds for countries in poverty, while at the same time teaching British children about the importance of hygiene.

Gweirydd Williams, a senior environmental health officer with Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "I was appalled that in the 21st Century, people had to endure such indignity and danger – so when I saw a photo of a twinned toilet whilst reading a Tearfund Magazine, I was taken by such an eye-catching way to publicise this crucial problem."

"I contacted Mr Aguilar – headteacher at St Clare's – about the Flush Away Poverty scheme and a latrine was purchased for the school."

cumstances.

Also on February 6, Cwtch between 1pm and 2pm, gives the opportunity to practice reading out aloud.

February 7, outreach group in the Princess of Wales hospital, between 9.30am and 12.30pm; February between 10.30am to 12.30pm, a meeting of Health and Well Being group;

On Fridays at the centre, there are free counselling sessions with Macmillan and Relate, for carers affected by cancer. To book, call Rachel on 07582 874186.

Wildlife Trust

MEMBERS of the trust at Parc Slip nature reserve visitor centre, Tondy will restart Wildlife Watch activities for children aged up to 13 years on Saturday, February 4 between 10am and 12.00 noon. Suggested donation £2 per child to cover costs. For more information telephone 01656 724100 or email: info@welshwildlife.org

Tondy Primary School

THE next event in the Primary Schools' cross-country competition for pupils in years 3-6 is on Saturday, February 4 at Cynffig Comprehensive School at 10am. Meet at 9.40am to register.

Year-5 pupils in Miss Watson's Taf class will be taking part in the Welsh Heritage Awards, looking at 100 years of education in Aberkenfig.

Year-6 pupils in Mrs Lucas's Usk class will be studying a number of various subjects, including 'The Wreck of the Zanzibar' by Michael Morpurgo, and understanding the effects of friction on moving objects.

Young Singer of the Year



Bethan Langford talking to Joshua Mills.



Suzanne Hodges accompanist.

REPORT by CLIVE MITCHELL.

LAST Saturday evening, I attended the 'Young Singers' competition at Maesteg Town Hall.

The hall was crowded, with a large number of dignitaries in attendance including Huw Irranca-Davies MP, Janice Gregory AM, Coun Mel Nott, Leader of Bridgend CBC, Coun Marlene Thomas Deputy Mayor of Bridgend CBC and Coun Gareth Howells, Mayor of Maesteg town council. I apologise if I have missed anyone out.

Compère Beverly Humphries thanked the president of the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir, and the director of Dunraven Windows, Mr David Brace, along with his wife Dawn, for providing prize money for all the finalists.

She welcomed the adjudicators – Wyn Davies, Suzanne Murphy, Dennis O'Neill and Eric Roberts, along with Alun Hodges, musical director of the Maesteg Gleemen, the chairperson.

She introduced the competitors in each section as they came on stage, with finalists from the junior and senior sections singing before the first interval.

The finalists aged between 18 and 25 years of age then performed and during another break, the Gleemen entertained the audience.

The adjudicators returned to the stage with the finalists and stressed that the losers should not be disheartened, as next time it could be their turn.

Deputy Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Marlene Thomas, then presented the prizes to each competitor.

The junior section consisted of Lauren Coates (Bryntirion comprehensive), Connie Osgood-Fisher (Archbishop McGrath RC school), Emily Hunt (Bryntirion comprehensive) and Amy Leigh Thomas (Maesteg comprehensive).

The winner was 13-year-old Lauren Coates, with renditions of songs by Robat Arwyn, titled 'Anfonaf Angel' and the song from the show Les Miserables, 'On My Own'.

The senior section consisted of Sophie Howe (Porthcawl comprehensive), Harmony Miller (Porthcawl comprehensive), Sebastian Waters (Archbishop McGrath RC school), and the winner was 16-year-old Sebastian Waters from the Archbishop McGrath, with his renditions of 'Cartref' music by Trevor Evans and words by Mynyddog, and 'Anthem' from the show Chess.

The winner of these two categories received a personal trophy and cheque for £100, with a voucher for £400 to further musical education at their schools.

The runners-up received a cheque for £50 and a voucher for £50 for their schools.

The young adult section consisted of Eirlys Myfanwy Davies, a 23-year-old mezzo-soprano from Carnarthen; b) Rosanne Havel, a 25-year-old soprano from Cardiff; c) Gerallt Rhys Jones, a 19-year-old counter tenor from Machynlleth; d) Bethan Langford, a 22-year-old mezzo-soprano from Shropshire; e) Joshua Mills, a 22-year-old tenor from Neath.

The winner was tenor Joshua Mills, with items from Mozart's 'Die Zauberflöte' and Gounod's aria from 'Romeo and Juliette'.

He received a trophy and a cheque for £2,500, with the other finalists in this category receiving a trophy and cheque for £500. Beverly Humphreys warmly congratulated accompanist Suzanne Hodges and her assistant Geraint John.

A special mention should be made of Paul Greenway music teacher of Bryntirion comprehensive school, who accompanied the two competitors from the school.



ABOVE: Rosanne Havel was a finalist in the young adult category.



ABOVE: The junior section winner was Lauren Coates of Bryntirion Comprehensive School.



ABOVE: Assistant accompanist Geraint John.



ABOVE: Tenor Joshua Mills won the young adult section.



ABOVE: Coun Mel Nott, the Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council.



ABOVE: Alun Hodges acted as the chair of the adjudicators.



Huw Irranca-Davies MP and wife Joanna, with David Brace.

Trevor snaps black and white award

THE Pyle and Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual Alan Thomas Memorial Trophy competition for monochrome prints on Thursday January 26 at The Rest in Porthcawl.

The competition used the aggregate scoring method, whereby the total score for each participant's two entries decided the winner.

Brian Makinson ably judged the competition and not only awarded the points for each image, but also provided an excellent critique on each, along with some suggestions for improvement.

First place was shared between Trevor Owen with 'Growing Wild' and 'Gloucester Cathedral' (maximum point score), and Audrey Haberfield with



Trevor Owen (left) receives his prize.

'The Gatehouse' and 'Aberdula's Arches'.

Second place was shared between Martyn Derbyshire with 'Curly Tail' and 'The Look', and Richard Craze with 'Woody Mountains' and 'Moonlight on the Barn'.

Third place was also shared between Dan Minto with 'Roath Park' and 'Man in the Moon', and Glyn Edmunds with

'Let There be Light' and 'Dun Floatin'.

Congratulations to Trevor and Audrey in winning such a close-run competition with only two points separating first and third places.

A big thank you to all who participated for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

GLYN EDMUNDS



Byron Davies pictured with dispatcher Kelvin Lewis at Bridgend Railway Station

Holocaust memorial day was 'moving'

IHAD the honour to represent the Mayor at Bridgend County Borough Council's annual Holocaust Memorial Day event last week.

I am sure I speak for all those who attended when I say how moving the ceremony was.

I was especially impressed by the film made in collaboration with pupils from Maesteg Comprehensive who linked the work they are doing on their peer mediation programme with this year's Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'Speak Up Speak Out'.

I have no doubt that every person who left the Council Chamber after the ceremony, took away the important message of using your voice against intolerance and hatred to build a stronger community.

Congratulations to BCBC and all those involved in ensuring that this important day is marked with such dignity.

Coun Marlene Thomas,
Deputy Mayor, Bridgend County Borough

Stylish start to new year

2012 began in style as Coity Ladies opted for a New Year lunch, instead of our usual Christmas dinner.

We met at The Coed y Mwstwr Hotel, very glad of a roaring fire on a very cold and blustery day, and some 20 ladies enjoyed a convivial afternoon.

Celebrations were in order again when Val

Clatworthy won the Glamorgan Federation Whist Drive, and we extend our congratulations to her.

The January meeting was the AGM and we were pleased to have Marilyn Tucker present in her role of advisor.

Secretary Ann Gore complimented out-going chairman Mary Poland on her organisational skills which had enabled us to have an extremely

Bridgend railway station award deserved — says AM

SHADOW transport minister Byron Davies AM visited Bridgend Railway Station to personally congratulate staff on their success in the international station awards.

The Station was voted the best medium sized station at the international station awards held in Ireland. It also won the prize for best overall customer service — Going the extra mile. It beat 45 other stations to take these awards.

Mr Davies, who is also a Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, which includes Bridgend, said he wanted to meet every-one involved.

"This is no mean achievement," he said. "They were up against some stiff opposition. These awards cover things like transport

links, appearance, customer facilities and the focus of staff.

"Bridgend is a Brunel-designed station that dates from 1850 and has some Grade 2 listed buildings so it's good news to hear that it is being well looked after. It also handles more than 1.5m passengers a year so it's important that customer services are so good."

The station is run by Arriva Trains Wales and Mr Davies was met by Stewart Keay who is the station manager and Simon Turton, group station manager.

Mr Davies also chatted to some of the station's 14 staff members including Alison Devlin of Bridgend, who works in the ticket office and dispatcher Kelvin Lewis of Maesteg who has worked on the railways for 48 years.

Mr Keay said that the staff at Bridgend were like a small family with everybody working well together and helping each other out.

"We have a good team here and it's been reflected in these awards," he added.

The station is about to undergo access improvements being undertaken by Network Rail. Work will include a new footbridge crossing the line with lifts either end for the disabled. The existing footbridge is a Grade 2 listed structure which cannot be altered.

Mr Turton told Mr Davies that the biggest problem being faced by rail operators at the moment is the theft of copper cables by thieves which is causing huge delays across the network as signalling is put out of action.

He said that every minute of delay to a train costs Arriva between £35 and £75. Mr Davies promised to raise this issue with the Minister.



Prep and senior pupils, along with staff.

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL IS ON THE CREST OF SUCCESS!

LOCAL school, St John's in Porthcawl, has been praised for excellence recently, in three reports from three different organisations.

CSSIW (Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales) reported that "interactions between adults and children were observed to be warm and caring with praise and encouragement offered generously" and that the popular after-school club is a "well organized provision which places children at the centre of the care".

Alongside its consistently excellent and value-added GCSE results for senior pupils, St John's has also recently received accreditation from CREStEd for "excellent and appropriate support offered to dyslexic pupils."

Thirdly, as an Investors in People organization the school's strong and supportive management standards were recognised and all staff praised for their skills and commitment.

All three reports emphasise the strong family ethos within the school, as well as its excellent organization and nurturing environment.

St John's caters for boys and girls, ages 3 to 16, and prides itself on its ability to identify and develop the talents and skills of every individual child.

Recently the school has celebrated the individual successes of several pupils. Bibiana Viazani has just been selected as a member of the newly formed and highly prestigious Kids Aloud Choir and will also be touring Russia with them; Cian Sparrow



Headteacher Mrs Clint congratulates school Head Boy, Hugh Perkins.

is to perform in The King and I, a production at the New Theatre by the Millennium Centre and Head Boy, Hugh Perkins has just been awarded the top science scholarship to Christ College Brecon where he will study A levels.

Headmistress, Mrs Carol Clint said: "As a small school, with an excellent teaching staff, we are able to provide an exceptionally nurturing environment. This ensures not only academic success but clearly produces confident individuals who can excel in a variety of areas."



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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS



School cook Sarah Llewellyn and her kitchen colleagues.

WELL DONE!

Congratulations to Mynydd Cynffig Infants School cook Sarah Llewellyn and the kitchen staff, who were delighted to be highly commended in the 'Kitchen of the Year Award', at Bridgend Catering Awards with BCBC.

Staff at the school, the governors, pupils and parents, are very proud of their achievements.

Weather Week – The school has just held a 'Weather Week' when the children were taught about all types of weather around the world. Year-2, were extremely lucky in being able to visit the ITV studio to experience weather forecast first hand.

Year-1, set up their own weather station in the school and have thoroughly enjoyed recording the weather.

They have also compared our weather with schools in Cardiff, Africa and India.

KPC Youth Sion Laminini has recently joined KPC to undertake a community survey to find out what people think about the organisation and also to examine opportunities for developing services for parents and other adults in the community.

The survey was launched this week and the findings will be used to help shape future projects and building developments at the centre.

Over the next three months, their road-show will visit local shops, community centres and events in order to listen to residents' views and ideas.

They will also be going door-to-door with a short survey, in order to make sure that they hear from residents' across the area.

The aim of the survey is to find out what kind of training, support and activities local residents' would like to see offered at the centre, making sure that they focus on what people need.

This could lead to them working with

other community organisations in the area.

Project manager at KPC, Alison Mawby, emphasised that the survey will help the charity to grow and continue serving the community. They want to complement their youth work with support for parents and other adults in the community and also make sure they are led by the community's needs and aspirations.

The first road-show will be in Pyle Life Centre today from 5pm to 8.30pm and Wednesday, February 8 from 9am to 1pm.

For more information about the survey and to take part contact Sion Laminini on 01656 749219/07725 229152 or email: sion@laminini.co.uk

Scramblers seized

SCRAMBLER annoyance – After observing individuals using scramblers illegally and also on Kenfig Nature Reserve, a preserved site of scientific interest, PC Nicola McGill called for units to assist.

After being joined by the traffic department and the neighbourhood policing team they managed to seize four Scramblers and seven people were issued with warnings.

School news Congratulations to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing staff last week: Hannah Lewis – Class 1, Hadi Akinpar – Class 2, Tomos Cooper – Class 3, Mark Underhill – Class 4, Connor John – Class 5, Jay Buckley – Class 6 and Jade Walker from Class 7. Headteacher's award went to Gareth Davies.

Congratulations also go to Taryn Matthews, Ebony Rees, Grace Griffiths, Cerys Phillips, Ellie Rees, Cerys Brinkworth, Luke Tozer, Alex Parr, Thomas Knapp and Cai Quary for their excellent behaviour during lunchtimes last week.

As a reward, they will be joining Mr Goldsworthy for lunch.

Cross-country – Everyone is allowed to run in the next race this



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net



Jorja Jackson, Alfie Law and Madison Llewellyn setting up a weather station.

Saturday, February 4 at Cynffig Comprehensive School.

Cricknet – Congratulations to Kyle Williams from year-6 who has been selected for West Glamorgan under-11 cricket squad. Kyle, who has been playing cricket for four years, is developing into a first class bowler.

Golf classes – The golf professional from the Grove Golf Club will be at the school for one hour per week during the next four weeks. However, due to time restraints, only pupils from year-4 and 5 who will get the chance to 'have a taste' of golf during those weeks.

Wellbeing Centre

ACTIVITIES being held by Mental Health Matters, Wales in Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road on February 1 will be the reading group from 3pm to 4pm; Social afternoon from 1pm to 5pm.

Parish news MOTHERS' Union AGM – The Mothers' Union held their AGM last Tuesday in the Church Hall, when

Mrs Greta Richards started worship, which included prayers, scripture readings and a hymn.

During the meeting, a letter was read from Mrs Betty Lingwood, thanking the branch for their support during the heart-breaking time of Jacqui's death.

Grateful thanks were also received from Mrs Millicent Davies, for everyone's support and concern as she recovers from serious surgery.

After the service, Rev Dr Duncan Walker thanked Greta and her team for their wonderful contribution to parish life during 2011.

The AGM asked Greta and her team to continue in office. THE Sunbeams meet every Tuesday afternoon at Cornely Primary School at 3.20pm during term-time.

NEED a Lift – If anyone needs a lift to church, call one of the following: Rev Dr Duncan Walker, on 01656 740500/07766 710373 or Gareth Gardener on 07779 239302, who will also supply details of services.

REMEMBERING WHEN BRITAIN WELCOMED A NEW QUEEN

Images supplied by Mary Nifa Saunders (nee Bubb) and David Bubb, whose grandfather was Coun E Stanley Thomas, the chairman of Porthcawl Town Council in 1952.

THE King is Dead; Long Live the Queen!

This was the sad and startling news that greeted the British public, the members of the Commonwealth and the world on the morning of Wednesday, February 6, 1952.

It was a day when a young Princess became a Queen.

Next Monday, February 6, 2012, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne.

It was a truly sad event. King George VI had passed away peacefully in his sleep at Sandringham. At 56 years of age, he was relatively young by today's standards.

The King had suffered for quite some time with lung cancer and had had one lung removed in 1951.

A quiet and reserved gentleman, King George, and his wife, Queen Elizabeth, had endeared themselves to the British people by their strength of character, shown during the Blitz on London in World War II.

On many occasions, they had walked through the rubble of bomb damage to sympathise with the bereaved and homeless.

In those days, we saw the royal family as a unifying factor in a nation under threat.

By an odd turn of fate, as Duke of York, George had become King George VI when his elder brother Edward abdicated.

He was not ready to become King, he did not want to become King, and as we all know from the film *The King's Speech*, he had an awful stutter which he all but conquered.

On the King's death, 25-year-old Princess Elizabeth immediately became Queen Elizabeth II.

At that time, the then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were visiting Kenya as part of an international tour, that was also to take in Australia and New Zealand.

When the news was relayed to the royal couple, they were staying at

by KEITH E. MORGAN

the Treetops Hotel in the Aberdare National Wildlife Park, Kenya.

Arrangements were immediately made for them to fly home and they arrived back in London on Thursday, February 7, 1952.

Like all dramatic occasions, the death of King George VI and the accession of Queen Elizabeth II inspired many important people to voice memorable quotations, some of which are recorded here.

Eric Sherbrooke Walker, the founder of Treetops Hotel, said: "Many centuries ago, another Princess Elizabeth was sitting under a great tree in Hatfield Park when couriers announced to her that she had become Queen Elizabeth I."

"The remains of that tree still stand and bear a plaque. Similarly, a plaque was affixed to our mugby tree commemorating the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II."

Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister, in a broadcast to the nation, said: "During these last days, the King walked with death, as if death was a companion, an acquaintance who he did not fear...I, whose youth was passed in the august, unchallenged and tranquil glories of the Victorian era, may well feel a thrill in invoking, once more, the prayer and the anthem: God Save The Queen."

Clement Attlee, the former Prime Minister, said in the House of Commons: "It is our hope that Her Majesty may live long and happily and that her reign may be as glorious as that of her great predecessor: Queen Elizabeth I."

"Let us hope that we are witnessing the beginning of a new Elizabethan Age no less renowned than the first."

"We hope that Her Majesty The Queen and her Consort may live long and prosperously and may see more peaceful days than those which fell to the lot of His Late Majesty, whose loss we mourn today."



Coun E Stanley Thomas reading out the Royal Proclamation of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne from the steps of the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on Friday, February 8, 1952.

Helpline expands to help sexual violence victims

THE Ogmore AM Janice Gregory has shown her support in the Assembly for the new All-Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline.

It provides 24-hour, bilingual information for people with experience of domestic abuse or sexual violence, who need access to advice and emergency support.

The Helpline was first launched in 2004 as the Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline and has since taken over 215,000 calls from people in need of help and support.

It has now been expanded to include advice for victims of sexual violence.

Mrs Gregory said: "Having worked with groups active in this field for many years

and chaired the Assembly's communities and culture committee when it produced a milestone report on the issue, I welcome this step forward in making comprehensive help easily available to those affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

"People facing these dangerous and stressful situations need a simple first point of contact to put them in touch with specialised support."

"I hope this launch will help to get the number 0800 80 10 800 widely known."

Minister for Local Government and Communities, Carl Sargeant added: "Domestic abuse and sexual violence is simply not acceptable."

NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Speaker describes helping the helpless children in India

OVER 25 years ago, our speaker, Mrs. Carol Evans, and her husband decided to take practical steps to tackle the great suffering caused by child poverty in south-east India.

They had found conditions to be appalling for young children, who with their parents were in a cycle of deprivation and poverty.

The causes of this were two-fold. Many had worked on the land but had been badly affected by a lack of rain and climate change.

In this area, they also found that 70 per cent of the population were cultural and religious outcasts who believed, with the majority of the rest of the population, that their huge sufferings were caused by their 'past-life' experiences.

Carol and her husband set to radically improve matters wherever they could. They discovered that the local children

were largely employed in the match factories. In other areas, it was dangerous and badly-run firework factories.

It was common for the owners of these establishments to offer parents of young children money to enable them to purchase the basics of life, such as food.

Repayment would always be at extortionate rates that were impossible to pay back. Factory owners would then 'suggest' that payment could be made by letting their children come and work for a pittance, so that the debt could be worked off.

Carol also discovered that employers found it cheaper to employ little children than install machinery that could break down and involve installation costs.

Children could always be replaced with others. Our speaker emphasised that all this took place against a constitution that made such practices illegal. This always seemed to be ignored.

Carol found that, despite India's

increasing wealth, grinding poverty for the masses was the norm and corruption seemed to be endemic.

The shelter and support that the Evans' were able to provide for the children proved to be something of a miracle. Many youngsters condemned to be street urchins are now adult teachers, accountants and other professionals.

The home in Pooncholia houses 75 children, plus local adults devoted to their young charges. Members of the forum found this to be an inspiring talk that illustrated how determination and compassion had brought great changes in the lives of those who had previously had so little.

The forum meets today (February 2) at United Reformed Church, Barry at 10.30am. Alden Grindale will give a talk entitled 'Historical Walk - Barry'. For further information about the group, telephone 02920 594881.

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Feb 2012 Beginners Workshop Schedule

Beginners Wire Work
Mon 6th Feb 6.30-9.30pm
Tues 7th Feb-10am-1pm

Beginners Chain Maille
Tues 7th Feb 6.30-9.30pm
Wed 8th Feb-10am-1pm

Beginners Intro to Metal Clay
Tues 14th Feb 6.30-9.30pm
Wed 15th Feb-10am-1pm

The Basics of Jewellery Making
Thurs 16th 2.30-4.30pm
Thurs 16th 6.30-8.30pm

All workshops are inclusive of materials and use of tools. 10% off goods is also offered at the workshop for attendees

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Vale Orangeries have completed numerous orangery builds throughout south Wales with many showhomes available for private viewings.

"We offer a free consultation and design service and have various orangery builds available to view at our clients' homes. This is a unique opportunity to talk to our customers about their experience and see for yourselves the quality of our work."

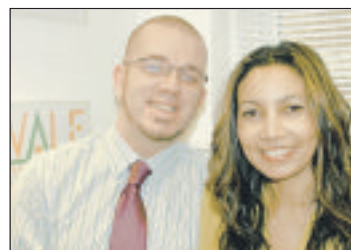
There are several design packages available, including bi-folding doors,

recessed lighting options, underfloor heating, home entertainment solutions and an interior design service to help with those all important finishing touches.

Dean explains, "Having a living space built to your specification is a dream for many, and a reality for our clients. We ensure the whole experience is enjoyable and stress free. There is no need to concern yourself with architects, planning or building control as this is all part of the package. The only planning we want you to worry about is where to put your sofa! - but we can even help with that too!"

For updates on current and previous builds, visit www.valeorangeries.co.uk

If you are thinking of an extension or conservatory, but want something different call Dean or Leanne on 01446 746353 to discuss how a Vale Orangeries orangery can work for the way you live.



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Out and About with The GEM

CLOONEY ON FINE FORM IN TOUCHING COMEDY DRAMA

HAVING hit critical pay dirt with middle-aged buddy 'dramedy' *Sideways* in 2004, Alexander Payne could have easily taken the ball and run with it.

Instead, the writer/director took a sabbatical, and only now has he returned to the big screen directing George Clooney in a novel adaptation, *The Descendants*.

Clooney plays Matt King, a man who wants to sell a piece of land his family own in Hawaii.

However, when Matt's wife suffers a boating accident, he must look after his two daughters (Shailene Woodley and Amara Miller) and having played a small role in their lives, must reconnect with them and himself – all the while learning about what his wife has been doing behind his back.

For those who like their films with a degree of intelligence and humour, the absence of Alexander Payne from screens has no doubt been something of a disappointment – the writer/director managing to expertly mine the ennui of the middle-aged

American man in the likes of *Sideways* and *About Schmidt*.

The Descendants then, on the surface, appears to be very much in the Payne milieu, and as you would expect, he delivers a mesmerising film that draws excellent performances from its cast.

He manages to deliver an emotional piece of work that doesn't push the schmaltzy buttons too much (a fault of much of the awards season fare thus far).

The subject matter could have seen Payne simply recycle the notes of his previous works given how they cleave so close to his output.

However, by adapting from the source novel, Payne, who co-wrote the script along with Nat Faxon and Jim Rash, takes his eye for these types of characters and introduces new elements that enrich the film.

While there are moments of comedy, the film is more dramatic than you would expect.

The story of a man wrestling with a life-changing decision, along with upheaval in his personal life, have moments of realistic comedy, but, tempered by the naturalistic nature of the story, there are no easy answers for any of the

SCREEN TALK



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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characters, no Hollywood-style ways out.

Instead, the first person narrative plays it straight, and is all the better for it; Payne and co's screenplay balancing well.

His direction is superb as well, the beauty of Hawaii acting as a gorgeous backdrop to the familial strife that takes place, while Payne puts the concerns of the story first and foremost, the camera lingering on the characters and their responses rather than opting for fast cuts and clever editing.

Anchoring it all is an absolutely outstanding turn from George Clooney, who has rightly received acclaim for his performance.

While his best performances have often relied on his charm in tandem with strong acting (*Out of Sight*, *Michael Clayton*) here Clooney reins in the charm – instead delivering a straight turn, with an element of comedy, that ticks all the boxes.

It is possibly the actor's most naked turn yet (not literally, I'm afraid, ladies) and watching Clooney on such fine form is truly a

joy to watch.

Amidst the acclaim Clooney has received, the other performances in the film seem to have gone unfairly unnoticed.

Woodley and Miller are both incredibly good as Clooney's two daughters, the former a troubled teen failing to connect to an absent father, while the latter manages to inject humour as an old-beyond-her-years youngster that provides much laughter.

Throw in Nick Krause as the default comedy character Sid, a role expertly delivered by the actor who manages to throw in some pathos to what is an otherwise played-for-laughs character.

Touching smaller roles for Beau Bridges, the underrated Judy Greer (showing her skills in an unfamiliar straight performance) and Robert Forster, leaves a cast who manage not to put a foot wrong throughout.

While the story hardly reinvents the wheel, it is delivered with such class and skill that you don't mind.

The return of Alexander Payne to the director's chair, and a wonderful performance by George Clooney are enough to sate the appetite, as *The Descendants* makes for a truly superb viewing experience.

VERDICT – The first of the 'awards season' films to really deliver, *The Descendants* is an excellent film that captivates and amuses with no small degree of intelligence. Alexander Payne's return is one of form, while the performance he coaxes out of George Clooney sees the actor stripped of his charm but resulting in the finest performance of his career; all in all a huge success! *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Sideways* (2004), *About Schmidt* (2002).

Prizes to be won for school news projects!

PRODUCING a newspaper as a school project can be one of the best ways to develop a range of knowledge and skills in a fun way – and local secondary schools are among those being

offered prizes and the opportunity for local and national recognition to do just that.

The Glamorgan GEM is offering to work with a local school entering the competition by featuring the project in our

columns and arranging for students working on a newspaper project to see how their local newspaper is produced.

The Shine School Media Awards are designed to encourage teachers to build the production of a newsletter, newspaper or magazine into their programme, as an individual or team project; and the awards are open to all secondary-level schools in Wales and England.

Teachers may register interest on the www.shine-schoolawards.org website, where full details of the awards are available.

Entries must be submitted by the end of March 2012, to qualify for judging in the

national competition.

Chairman of the awards, Ian Locks, said: "The awards, now in their second year, are designed to encourage development of communication, writing and IT skills, provide experience of management and team work – and to encourage respect for copyright and a better understanding of the sustainability of paper products."

Prize money of £4,500 is on offer to the main winners and all shortlisted schools will be invited to an awards ceremony at Stationers' Hall (next to St Paul's Cathedral in London) on Monday, June 25, to receive their awards or certificates.

WHAT'S ON
A NEW monthly 'pool circuits' fitness class is being launched at Barry Leisure Centre with a free taster session on Sunday, January 29, between 4pm and 5pm.

Coming of the Light

ART 4 U is holding its annual 'Coming of the Light Celebration – A Walking Contemplation' on Sunday, February 5, from 4pm at the Knap Lake and Gardens, Barry (meet under the Lake shelters).

Contact: art4u@wales.org.uk.

Meet

and greet

ST DONAT'S Arts Centre's newly-established theatre company welcomes anyone with a love of singing,

dancing, acting – or backstage work – to meet and greet on February 6 at 7pm. Contact Mike Peters on 01446 799100.

Mayor's coffee

VALEPLUS, the Vale-based charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, is holding a coffee morning on Tuesday, February 7, between 10.30am and 12 noon.

It will be hosted by Coun John Clifford, Mayor of the Vale, in the Corporate Suite of the Civic Offices at Holton Road, Barry.

Tickets cost £1.50. There will be stalls including cakes, plants, books and NOVA, as well as a mystery prize game and a raffle. All are welcome.

Festival seeks feedback from local traders

COWBRIDGE Food and Drink Festival has already kicked off the organising of this year's festival and, as usual, are keen for feedback and suggestions from businesses in the town.

Together with the Vale Council, the committee has compiled a questionnaire specifically targeting local businesses, to collate their views of the weekend and (hopefully) respond, to make this an even more beneficial weekend for town traders.

The questionnaire has already been circulated to many local businesses,

but copies can still be collected at the receptions of either The GEM or Cowbridge Town Hall.

John Davies, chair of the festival committee, explained: "It is important for us to work closely with the town's business people to make the entire Cowbridge experience positive."

"The festival was set up to showcase everything that the Cowbridge area offers throughout the year – and to encourage repeat visits."

"Therefore, we welcome the opportunity of working with local businesses to best highlight what they offer."

Toy and train sale is a great day out

THE first toy and train collectors' show of the new year in Barry takes place on Sunday, February 5, at Barry Leisure Centre in Greenwood Street, from 10.30am to 3pm.

Top traders from all over Wales, as well as many from across the bridge, attend the Barry show and it has rapidly become established as a major event in south Wales.

It also complements the quarterly Cardiff toy and train sale held at Penarth Leisure Centre

at Cogan, which is operated by the same organisers.

The venue is well-known as a clean, warm and well-lit centre, with plenty of parking available and easy access.

A local caterer also operates within the show throughout the day, and offers a wide range of refreshments at reasonable prices.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Barry has come around again and all the traders and the patrons are looking forward to another great day out."

Blood donor sessions

THE Welsh Blood Service will be holding donor sessions in the area as follows:

February 7: Bedwas Hall, Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry, 10am – 6pm.

February 13-14: Llanwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road, Llanwit Major, 10am – 6pm.

February 17: Mobile Donation Clinic, Tesco Stores, Castle Street, Maesteg, 10.45am – 1.45pm and 3.15pm – 6.30pm.

Brackla Community Centre, The Triangle, Brackla, 10am – 6pm.

To view a comprehensive list of all blood donation sessions, please visit www.welshblood.org.uk or call 0800 252266.

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SIX NATIONS RUGBY

2012 FIXTURES



ALL SET FOR THE BIG KICK-OFF! SEE PREVIEW ON BACK PAGE

Welsh rugby fans eagerly looking forward to the start of the Six Nations tournament this weekend, will have to wait until tomorrow for the starting line-up against Ireland in Dublin on Sunday.

Head coach Warren Gatland has delayed the announcement, in the hope that key injured trio Rhys Priestland, Jamie Roberts and Dan Lydiate, will be able to take the field for a crunch clash that both teams will be desperate to win – as they launch their bid for the 2012 title. (See back page)



PICTURES by HUW EVANS AGENCY

INJURY CONCERNS

RIGHT: Jamie Roberts (on left) and Rhys Priestland sit out squad training, but they are being given every opportunity by Warren Gatland to reach match fitness and line up against Ireland on Sunday.



SIX NATIONS TIMETABLE

Saturday, February 4, 2012

France v Italy, 14:30
Scotland v England, 17:00

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Ireland v Wales, 15:00

Saturday, February 11, 2012

France v Ireland, 20:00
Italy v England, 16:00

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Wales v Scotland, 15:00

Saturday, February 25, 2012

England v Wales, 16:00
Ireland v Italy, 13:30

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Scotland v France, 15:00

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Ireland v Scotland, 17:00
Wales v Italy, 14:30

Sunday, March 11, 2012

France v England, 15:00

Saturday, March 17, 2012

England v Ireland, 17:00
Italy v Scotland, 12:30
Wales v France, 14:45



ABOVE: Mike Phillips' control and power at scrum half could prove to be a vital factor in the game on Sunday.

ABOVE: In the blue bibs, Sam Warburton (left) and Toby Faletau will be key figures in the crucial breakdown battle against the street-wise Irish pack.

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Saturday February 11th

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MOVING OR

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That dream home might come in many forms. It could be a cottage in the country, a solid four-bedroom detached in a nice part of town, a penthouse apartment, or a rambling old property that you will transform into an elegant town house!

However, when times are tough, those dreams sometimes have to be put on hold for a few years, and it is time to take stock instead.

However, rather than dwelling on the negatives, this temporary pause can be a great chance to look at your present living space and perhaps give it a fresh look.

After all, well thought-out home improvements will give a twofold benefit – the sense of wellbeing induced by having that work done, and the knowledge that, when you do decide to move on, your efforts will be reflected in the selling price of your home.

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Experts have always argued that a good extension on a home will increase the value of it, and there are so many reasons nowadays for taking this step.

Families have to face the fact that it is not so easy for young people to get on the housing ladder, so children who in the past would have moved out as soon as they found their first job are now staying home longer while they save for a deposit.

A well-planned extension can give parents and children – well, young adults really – more space so that the family doesn't feel cramped and confined.

Necessary maintenance

It makes for a more relaxed living environment and, of course, there is the financial benefit to come, if and when the house is sold.

Of course, not every house or flat is suitable for an extension, but a great deal can be done in

terms of redecoration and renovation.

It is a chance to do all that necessary maintenance, and at the same time indulge your creative side.

A new colour scheme, or new wallpaper and carpets can upgrade a room, making you feel good at the same time.

Perhaps when you moved in you felt that there were too many small rooms? This could be the chance to knock two into one and make a really expansive living space.

If your living room is looking good, perhaps it is the kitchen that is in need of a makeover?

Once again, living and cooking in a more modern kitchen can make life seem much easier. Again, it will pay off by increasing the value of your property – and make the cook in your family very happy!

No matter where you live, it is a rare homeowner who has no issues with his/her property.

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In Business Update

Networking – Make it work for you today!

VWBN'S first speaker Marianne Pettifor, with 25 years' networking experience, will talk about how networking is changing.

She will address 'free of charge' and 'e' marketing as options for raising the profile of your business and gaining new business.

Come along and get some great tips from someone who has "been there" through thick and thin!

Marianne will also answer questions. So, put your thinking caps on and join us on Wednesday, February 15, at Bar 44, Cowbridge at 6.30pm; £10 non members, £5 members.

Please contact Rebecca to book; members@vwbn.org.uk

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Quality furniture venture a change of direction for couple

HUSBAND and wife team, Gareth and Nicky Punter, spotted a gap in the market for quality furniture in top-notch materials such as pine and oak, and, above all, a personal service.

Their new enterprise, Home Comforts Furniture Warehouse, opened on February 1 and is based in the Vale, equidistant from Cowbridge and Bridgend.

Gareth, who previously worked for a UK-wide furniture company as a sales and marketing manager, and who is also a joiner by trade, knows a thing or two about bespoke furniture.

"Not everyone wants the impersonal, flat-pack experience," he explained. "Our aim is to provide a knowledgeable service for our customers. We'll go the extra mile and measure up for the customer at home to ensure the piece they want is suitable."

"In my experience, many stores sell low-calibre furniture at high prices. Ours is beautifully made, all the pine being made to order and finished by hand by British craftsmen."

"The oak is all solid and of the highest quality, fantastic to look at and keenly priced. We have divided the

warehouse up into room sets so people can get a feel for how it will look in situ.

"We also have a range of beautiful accessories, so our customers can re-create the look at home, without needing to shop elsewhere."

The Parlance quality accessories are replenished on a regular basis and updated to run with current trends.

Gareth and Nicky, a former NHS training manager, have many years' experience in the furniture trade between them, and are keen to point out that their new enterprise plugs the gaps left by other businesses.

Richard, the store manager, is keen to get the business up and running and is enthusiastic about the future:

"The furniture is beautiful, well made and total quality," he said.

In addition to private homes, their furniture and accessories would suit boutique and country house hotels, high-quality holiday lets, and landlords wanting to let furnished properties in the executive market.

Home Comforts Furniture Warehouse, Unit 4b, West Winds Business Park, Llangan, Vale of Glamorgan CF35 5DR. Tel: 01656 861120; please visit our website: www.homecomfortsfrw.co.uk

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Balmoral Motorhomes, based in Bridgend, mid-way between Cardiff and Swansea, offers a hire service for luxury motorhomes. Find us just off junction 35 of the M4.

A spokesman explained: "We only use new 2012 registered camper vans. We have four or six berth motorhomes now available for that special holiday."

"They are fully equipped and insured for drivers over 25 years old, complete with radio/CD, and flat screen TV/DVD player."

For our new 'hire' facility, or for new and used motorhomes or caravans for sale, call 01656 858289 – or visit us alongside Nathaniel Car Sales, Bridgend Industrial Estate, CF31 3SA.

Bridgend law firm achieves Lexcel Quality Standard



The Lexcel certificate is handed over by Wayne Williams of cpm21.

DP LAW LTD (David Prosser & Co), the well-known Bridgend law firm, were presented with the Law Society Lexcel Excellent Service

Quality Standard recently.

To achieve the standard, a legal practice must undergo a rigorous check by an independent auditing organisation against the Lexcel Quality Standard.

"Achieving Lexcel accreditation reinforces our commitment to providing high-quality legal services tailored to client needs," said Diane Bishop, practice manager.

"We have held a Specialist Quality Mark for quite some time, which is the Legal Services Commission quality standard, but this only applied to our publicly-funded departments."

"Lexcel applies to all areas of the practice and demonstrates our continued focus – striving for excellent customer service at highly competitive fees," Simon Thomas, director, commented.



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FULL INDEPENDENCE currently has

a massive stock clearance sale, with all in-stock scooters, stairlifts, Rise

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We are also taking bookings on all garden adaptations and if you book your garden adaptation with us you can receive a £200 instore gift voucher (terms and conditions apply).

On Saturday, February 4, we will give the first 15 customers a free folding walking stick with no minimum spend.

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In Business Update

Continental photographers Format 35 extend their client base

CONTINENTAL wedding photographers, Format 35, have now extended their client base into the Vale and surrounding areas.

Young award-winning photographer, Miro Cik, offers a professional service for weddings, portraits and commercial work.

Please contact Miro to discuss your requirements in the comfort of your own home.

To ensure that your occasion is memorable for all the right reasons, call Miro on 07432 594 820.

Please visit the website www.format35.co.uk to sample the quality of his work and for an indication of his price structure.



Councillor replies

'YOU HAVE TO BE THERE TO REMEMBER IT!'

COUN Katherine Kemp has recently claimed that she was surprised at the Labour Party pledge to review and reinstate a mobile library service.

Labour Members put a motion to a Vale Council meeting on September 28, 2010, to reinstate the mobile library service, but it was defeated by the ruling Conservative group.

She also claims that I did not object to such a proposed cut when I was on the budget working group at the time.

Actually, I and others did question the proposed cuts to the mobile library and the proposed closure of village libraries, including Wenvoe, Sully and St Athan.

We requested more detailed information on the numbers of people using them, and what effect such cuts would have on the services.

That was supposed to be reported back to the group, but it was not. Therefore, at one

of the final meetings, the group recommended the deferral of those and other cuts – in order to obtain further information – as none had been supplied.

Coun Kemp did not recall it, because she was not at that meeting!

Also, when this budget working group reported back to the Corporate Resources Scrutiny no further details were supplied.

This time, the proposed savings were simply listed as a 'Review of Library Provision and Structure', without clarifying what was being proposed.

The cut to the mobile library was subsequently made by the Conservative cabinet.

There are no surprises, just facts. Coun Neil Moore, Barry (Leader of the Labour group on the Vale County Borough Council)

Firefighters' Atlantic rowing marathon takes total of 46 days

TWO south Wales firefighters, who aim to raise tens of thousands of pounds for a host of charities, completed their Atlantic rowing marathon in 45 days, 19 hours and 21 minutes.

John Haskell and Jamie Windsor travelled 2,615 nautical miles from the Canary Isles to Barbados, and the money raised will go to Help for Heroes, Breast Cancer Care, The Firefighters Charity and WRVS.

The duo rowed the entire distance totally unsupported in a 'Woodvale Pairs' class boat that was designed specifically for the race

but measures a mere 23 feet long by 6 feet wide.

Huw Jakeway, the acting chief fire officer of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service said: "This was an incredible and gruelling challenge that has raised a lot of money for some very worth while charities."

Coun Anthony Ernest added: "On behalf of the whole of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, we would like to say how proud we are of John and Jamie – and big congratulations to them both on an outstanding achievement."

Donations can still be made to the causes via the venture's website at www.atlanticdash.com.

WHAT'S ON in brief

Friends draw up agenda

THE next meeting of Barry&Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, February 7, in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

On the agenda will be a de-briefing from those members who are to meet with Alun Cairns MP on February 3.

Members will want to know the present position on incinerators/Prosiect Gwyrdd and Government subsidies for burning waste.

Rapid development at Rhooose Point and the formation of a new group in Rhooose will also be discussed.

Barry&Vale FoE will be supporting those opposing the White Farm development, at the appeal stage and we are working with the Welsh Assembly in giving evidence to their study of waste issues and incinerators.

Members will be asked to consider a Barry&Vale FoE stall at this year's National Eisteddfod in Llandow.

Social evening BRIDGEND County Mayor, Coun Christopher Michaelides, invites the public to a "social evening with a differ-

ence" at the Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend on Wednesday, February 8 from 7pm-10.30pm.

Entertainment includes harpist Angharad Roberts, local girl Lexi Richmond, and the Take Note Choir (under musical director Richard Norton).

There will also be several display and craft stands, as well as a regal travel display.

Admission £8, to include a light buffet; proceeds to local charities.

Change of date

CANOLFAN Porthceri Centre has had to change the meeting date as published here last week.

On Saturday, February 11 cabinet member and chair of the Regeneration Board Rhodri Traherne will chair the meeting in Windsor Road URC (across from the Mount Sorrel).

Tea and coffee will be available from 10am onwards and the meeting will begin at 10.30.

The purpose of the meeting is to gauge support for an arts and cultural centre, and to find a way to make it happen.

Vale MP's surgeries

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, will be holding local surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, February 10, at the following locations: 9.30am-11am at Tesco, Stirling Road, Barry; 12.30pm-2pm at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road; 3pm-4.30pm, The Robing Room, Cowbridge Town Hall, Cowbridge.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but it is advisable to call 01446 403814, to make an appointment.

If Pleasure Park is developed it gives hope that cinema will return to town

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Save Our Cinema group believes that the proposed redevelopment of the Pleasure Park on Barry Island is the best hope of bringing back big screen entertainment to the town.

Today, Thursday, February 2, the Vale Council planning committee will consider a recommendation that the estimated £70m scheme, which includes flats, a care home and retail units, along with a cinema, should go ahead.

Bob Armstrong, the chairman of SOCA, said: "The Island looks like the only place in the town with potential."

"I can't see a cinema being located at the Waterfront – there's no space available."

Although there are large buildings available in the town – both the old magistrates court and the Pump House are on the open market – Mr Armstrong explained that multiplex cinema groups favoured building from scratch and independent cinema companies favoured taking over former 'big screen' venues.

He insisted: "If any cinema operator is interested in moving into the area, the Vale Council has to engage with them so they know there's a local commitment."

CHARITY BOUTIQUE

DOGS Trust Bridgend has opened its first charity boutique in Wales at 62 Eastgate, Cowbridge. "It is open every day except Sundays, from 9.30am to 4.30pm; pop down and grab a bargain and help raise pounds for hounds!" a spokeswoman urges.

LOCAL PACT meetings

BARUC neighbourhood officers will be holding surgeries on Sunday, February 5 at Amherst Crescent between 2pm and 4pm and then at Marine Drive between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

STATHAN PACT, February 5, at The Gathering Place at 2pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT, Llandough War Memorial Hall, February 6 at 7.30pm.

BUTRILLS PACT at 6.30pm on Thursday, February 9 at the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, Tynewydd Road.

LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT, February 15 at Ewenny Village Hall at 7pm.

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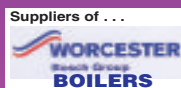
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Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Caravans wanted, for the Eisteddfod!

Appeal for caravans
DURING the National Eisteddfod, it is estimated that 150,000 people will visit the Festival site. Although we hope that many local people will attend thousands will come from further afield and will be looking for accommodation in the area - in hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfast and also in private accommodation.

Every year, hundreds

of caravanners will also set up home on the Eisteddfod's caravan site, which will be situated next to the Eisteddfod Festival site at Llandow on the outskirts of Cowbridge. Some will bring their own caravans, while others will be looking for caravans to rent for the week.

We have already received numerous requests for caravans from people wishing to stay on the caravan site, but do not have their own caravans to bring. Do you have a touring caravan you could rent to these Eisteddfod visitors for the week?

Could you help the Eisteddfod in this way

and make some money at the same time? If so, please contact the Eisteddfod Office on 02920 763 777 sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk.

Hire a trade stand

OVER a period of eight days, the 35-acre 'Maes' is home to over 300 stands - shops, businesses, artists, craftspeople, charities, local and national organisations and many more that choose to use the Eisteddfod as their ultimate pop up shop.

The benefits of having a stall at the Eisteddfod last for much longer than the week itself, with

numerous stallholders telling us of the commissions and orders they have received in the months and even years following their visit to an Eisteddfod.

The application forms for hiring a stand at this year's Eisteddfod are now available on the Eisteddfod web site. For further details email Eira B o w e n , eira@eisteddfod.org.uk or pick up the phone for a chat on 02920 763 777.

Eira will be more than happy to assist you with any queries you may have. This is the first time since 1968 that this great national event will visit the Vale so don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of it!

Apel am garafanau

YN ystod yr Eisteddfod disgwylir i 150,000 ymweld â'r Eisteddfod gyda nifer yn teithio o bob cwr o Gymru a thu hwnt ac yn chwilio am lety mewn gwestat, llety hunan arlwy o a llety preifat yn yr ardal.

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DROS gyfnod o 8 diwrnod, mae'r maes 35 erw yn gartref i dros 300 o stondinau - yn siopau, busnesau, artistiaid, crefftwyr, elusennau a mudiadau lleol a chenedlaethol a llawer mwy sydd yn penderfynu defnyddio'r Eisteddfod fel 'pop up siop' am yr wythnos.

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Dyma'r tro cyntaf ers 1968 i'r Wyl Genedlaethol yma ymweld â'r Fro felly peidwch â cholli'r cyfle i fod yn rhan ohono.

SIONED EDWARDS

Council starts countdown to the Eisteddfod

THE countdown has officially begun to the biggest week in Wales' cultural calendar, which will this year be held in the Vale which is to play host to the National Eisteddfod from August 4-11, for the first time in 44 years, at Llandow.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has placed a countdown clock on its website, www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, to remind residents there's still time to help raise funds for the event, expected to attract 165,000 visitors.

Vale Council leader,

Coun Gordon Kemp, said: "The National Eisteddfod is an internationally-recognised cultural festival that not only celebrates all that is best in Wales, but will also attract large numbers of people to the Vale."

"This is an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the Vale, particularly for the nearby towns of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge."

Visit http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/enjoying/eisteddfod_2012.aspx.

Young speakers tackle thought-provoking topics



ABOVE: The winning senior team.

FOLLOWING a successful first round of the Young Chef competition, the Rotary Club of Barry organised the Youth Speaks competition at Barry Comprehensive School on January 18.

Teams were made up of a chairperson, speaker and a third person to give the vote of thanks.

This year, the competition moved to national rules, where a talk was given as opposed to a debate.

The speaker also had to answer a question from a member of the audience to show they understood their chosen topic.

In the junior section, four teams were entered; two from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and two from Barry Comprehensive School while in the Senior section Barry Comprehensive, Bryn

Hafron Comprehensive and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg entered one team each.

The winning junior team comprised Rhiannon Berry, Morwenna Osmond and Betsan Jones from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. Their chosen topic was, 'The Olympics and its influence.'

The prize for the best junior speaker was awarded to John McAllister from Barry Comprehensive School; the prize for the best chairperson was awarded to Rhiannon Berry; and the prize for the best vote of thanks went to Betsan Jones, both from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

In the senior competition, the team from Bryn Hafron took first place, their chosen subject being, 'Play up, play away and play the fool: sports people are not positive role models for the young, and the Olympics not the epitome of sporting prowess and morality.'

The team members were Aimee Delaney, Lissie Wallington and Sarah Jayne Griffiths.

The prize for the best senior speaker was awarded to George Scott from the Barry Comprehensive School, while the prize for best chairperson went to Leah Robinson; and best vote of thanks to Robin Tait - both from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

The judges were Terry Brooks, Graeme Milnes and Gwilym Jones from Cardiff Speaker's Club.

Speaking before the winners were announced, Terry Brookes praised all who those who had taken part and shad et such a high standard for the evening, leaving the judges with some very difficult decisions!

Presenting the prizes, Barry Rotary Club president David Ball congratulated all competitors and thanked everyone for supporting the event and also the Barry Comprehensive School for its hospitality.

The winning teams will now go forward to the district competitions, to be held in the next few weeks.

J.O.

St Dwynwen gives Eisteddfod a boost



PICTURED: (left to right) Nia Roberts and Alison Huw from the Welsh St Donat's Eisteddfod fundraising committee.

SANTES Dwywnwen Day - the patron saint of Welsh lovers - was celebrated in style on Wednesday, January 25, with a special event organised at Loch Fyne, Cowbridge, to raise money for the National Eisteddfod in the Vale later this year.

The pinnacle of the evening was an auction and tombola of over 100 artworks by the great and the good of the Welsh art scene, together with sketches by famous Welsh celebrities.

Aneurin, Gwilym Pritchard, Claudia Williams, Wilf Roberts, Mary Lloyd Jones and her fellow Radio Cymru presenter Dafydd Du, to Nia Roberts for co-ordinating the donations of artworks and to Miriam, Greta and Arwel for providing the entertainment.

"The chef and staff at Loch Fyne were superb and delivered an excellent meal. Huge thanks to everyone who helped make the evening such a success."

Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg.

Uchafbwynt y noson oedd ocsiw'n a thombola o dros 100 o weithiau celf gan fawrion bydd celf Cymru, gan gynnwys Aneurin, Gwilym Pritchard, Claudia Williams, Wilf Roberts, Mary Lloyd Jones a Mike Jones. Roedd Sam Warburton, Bryn Terfel, Joe Calzaghe, Nigel Owens, Gavin Henson a'r seren rygbi lleol, Lloyd Williams, ymhlith darluniau at yr achos yn rhad ac am ddim.

Dwydodd Alison Huw, cadeirydd pwyllgor apel Llandundwyd a'r cych, "Roedd yn noson anhygoel a wnaeth godi dros £3,700, diolch i raddion hael tu hwnt gan arluwyr a sêr enwocaf Cymru."

Mawr yw'n diolch i Caryl Parry Jones a Dafydd Du fu'n llwyddu d'u'n noson, i Nia Roberts am gydlynw'r gweithiau celf ac i Miriam, Greta ac Arwel am ein diddanu. Cawsom wledd yn Loch Fyne a hoffwn ddiolch i'r fawr i'r cogydd a'r staff oll am ei gwneud hi'n achlysur arbennig i ni. Diolch i bawb wnaeth ein cefnogi unwaith yn rhagor."

Caru Celf wrth Ddathlu Dwywnwen

CAFWDYD noson Santes Dwywnwen arbennig iawn yn Loch Fyne, Y Bontfaen, nos Fercher, Ionawr 25. Digwyddiad oedd hi i godi arian tuag at Eisteddfod

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D707.

● £2,000: 303850.
● The rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 593031, 276019, 123741, 801695, 240510, 434272, 440594, 875516, 771411, 948634, 462469, 729881, 484772, 255419, 424404, 813582, 229122, 478701, 159876, 168485.

● £5: 295748, 773863, 461784, 336100, 110419, 739834, 843006, 266757, 404367, 500669, 593832, 391409, 452907, 939598, 383944, 953047.

494133, 658751, 886855, 405804, 623773, 639748, 257372, 979837, 906792, 342856, 691021, 463906, 206815, 292498, 462106, 107164, 618899, 746943, 462383, 415953, 363091, 308911, 330007, 812916, 766461, 853790, 209755, 493779, 261700, 518534, 659037, 881063, 730333, 766368, 797899, 743717, 539882, 636368.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

TABLE TENNIS ACE PAUL CHOSEN FOR PARALYMPIAN TEAM

PAUL DAVIES, of North Cornelly, is among four Welsh athletes chosen to take part in the Paralympic Games by the British Paralympic Association (BPA).

The others are Rob Davies, from Brecon; Paul Karabardak from Swansea; and Sara Head from Cardiff.

London 2012 will be the first Paralympic

Games for Paul, Rob and Sara. However, Paul Karabardak is one of the more experienced athletes in what is one of the youngest squads in the world.

ParalympicsGB Chef de Mission, Craig Hunter, said: "I'm delighted to welcome this group of athletes to ParalympicsGB."

"To have all 10 ranked in the top 11 in the world, shows there is real potential within this

squad and tribute should be paid to the governing body for supporting these athletes."

Performance manager Gorazd Vecko commented: "I am very proud that this young squad have earned their place at the Paralympic Games."

"Paralympic table tennis is very competitive, so to have this many players well placed as we go into a home games is a great situation to be in".

Paul, who trains at Pyle Leisure Centre, and is ranked at ninth, commented: "It was a fantastic moment to be told that I had been selected for ParalympicsGB. It is a real honour and a very proud moment for my family in Wales."

"I have been working towards this moment for many years and it is the highlight of my career, although now the hard work really begins."

Paul used to play table tennis in his free time, but became more actively involved in the sport from 1991. He says that he has always believed that "if you want something badly enough and work hard to get it, you will be rewarded", a motto that has paid off.

Paul has trained for five Paralympic Games before being selected to compete in London 2012.

The highlights of Paul's career so far include winning the silver medal in the team event at the 2011 European Championships, where he also beat the 2008 Paralympic gold medalist.

He cites the most influential people in his life as his son and his wife Deborah, who will both be cheering him on in 2012.



ABOVE:

Young Vale fighters with their medal haul from the Ultimate Championships.

Local stars excel in the Ultimate Tae Kwon Do one-2-one championships

THE Ultimate Championships in Barnsley gave Llantwit Major and Wales Tae Kwon Do the opportunity to get back on the competition front, after being away for some time.

Taking an inexperienced team up to Barnsley to a high level competition was a gamble, but didn't it pay off!

In the Pee Wee division, Oliver Jarmain who faced a higher grade and much more experienced player, just missed out on the win, but took gold in his next match.

Ben Simpson McCourt was in top form with the fastest TKO (technical knock out) of the day in just four seconds and won his next fight to take his second gold.

Jody Simpson McCourt was up against a much bigger opponent and only just missed out on gold.

In the next match, she battled to a well-

deserved gold.

Zoe Ping, in her first competition, did well against a far more experienced player and Ruth May dominated her first fight in a hard-hitting match to take gold.

Her second match was going to plan when she sustained a nasty foot injury, but hung on for a well-deserved win.

Ellie May lost out in the dying seconds to a very good player by a single point, but in her next match knocked her opponent out.

The lady was fine after the St John Ambulance took care of her, so all was well in the end.

"The May twins have the capability with hard work of going all the way to Olympic selection in the next few

years," said Master Paul Jones.

Ryan Chinn, in his first outing, won both his matches by stoppage. Two more golds and another star in the making!

Bradley Jones made it another gold, stopping his opponent in the first round.

His second match was much tougher against a larger player, but he took gold for his second time.

John Knight, in only his second competition, did well against a more seasoned player, losing by a narrow margin in both matches.

Kevin Hiscock in the senior Black Belt Division again played well, but suffered what was thought to be a dislocated toe (later found to be broken) in his first match.

He showed great spirit to come out for his second match.

Wester Ross wins

WESTER ROSS, an eight-year-old bay gelding trained by Llancarfan's Evan Williams and ridden by Paul Moloney, won the Dick Christian Novices' Chase at Leicester on Tuesday. An 11-2 chance in a field of just four runners, Wester Ross won by four lengths from Kim Bailey's Mark Twain.

Pencoe under-15s on top

PENCOED under-15 were up against new rivals St Peters on the weekend, and the Pencoe pack were up for the game.

After a tense start to the first half, Daniel Maiden scored

Pencoe's first try, converted by Alex King.

Ellis Griffiths scored the next try, and this

was closely followed by a try from Lloyd Webb.

In the second half, Pencoe upped their game again and Morgan Jones started it off with a try, which was converted by Alex King.

Ellis Griffiths scored his second try of the day, also converted by Alex King.

Towards the end of the game, Jac Briggs scored Pencoe's last try, once again converted by Alex King.

The game ended 38 - 0 to Pencoe.

Squad: Morgan Jones, Jordan Fox, Patrick Canham, Jamie Dyer, Liam Bowen, Jonathan Clatworthy, Jason Clatworthy, Alex King, Ellis Griffiths, Chris Cooper, Matthew Ellis, Liam Maiden, Lloyd Webb, Rhys Brownell, Lewis Brennan, Morgan Jefferies, Jacob Charles, James Merchant, Jac Briggs, Scott Ewing, Owain Clarke and Josh Maunders.

KP

JM

Agony and ecstasy for the Athletic under-11s

ATHLETIC under-11s travelled to play Pontyclun and Croesyceiliog at Pontyclun, and game one saw them face the hosts.

Pontyclun started sharply and scored the opening try, which was converted. The Ath slowly got themselves back in the game and slick hands from the backs saw Megan Webb score in the corner. Kasari Mehta converted to make it 7-7.

Another great passing move released Megan to go over in the corner for her second try, and Kasari kicked the conversion to make it 14-7 to the Ath.

From the re-start Pontyclun ran the ball the length of the field to score. The try was converted to make it level at half time.

The Ath wmanaged to turn pressure into points as Dan O'Sullivan made a great break and ran the length of the pitch to score. Kasari Mehta converted to make it 21-14 to the Ath.

The Ath scored the final try, again by Dan O'Sullivan. Kasari kicked the conversion to make the final score **Bridgend Ath 28, Pontyclun 14.**

Game two against Croesyceiliog saw the Ath make a raft of changes to their starting

line-up.

Croesyceiliog started the game impressively and scored five converted tries, giving them a 35-0 lead.

The Ath's determination was rewarded when the ball was recycled well, allowing Dan O'Sullivan to score. Kasari Mehta converted to make it 35-7 to Croesyceiliog.

Despite the Ath score and pressure, Croesyceiliog managed to score a further two converted tries to make the half time score 49-7.

Croesyceiliog started the second half and were quick to score a further two converted tries making it 61-7. The final

whistle was blown due to the points gap being over 50. Despite the score line, the Ath had shown great courage and commitment in their play and kept battling until the final whistle was blown.

Ath team: *Thomas Anthony, Jack Obbard, Gwilym John, Kasari Mehta, Ffion Revell, Megan Webb, Dan O'Sullivan, Sion Vigus, Sam Veasey, Louis King, Brandyn Fookes, Jamie Marshall, Dafydd Beech, Josh Tidy, Thomas Reed, Jack Jenkins, William Goodhall, Charles Creffield, Sam Owen.*

BR

Ath under-10s in action

In a very physical encounter, the Ath under-10s were pipped by a single try by Kenfig Hill.

Kenfig started the stronger, with their forwards working hard to secure good ball and they scored the first try.

Ath were quick to respond through Wil Thomas to level the score. Excellent strength form Bobby Bromley saw him wrestle through the Kenfig defence to take the lead.

The Mules pressured again to score two unanswered tries to make the score 10-15. Ath tried hard in the last minutes of the game to equalise but stubborn Mules defence managed to hold them out.

**Final Score Ath 10 - Kenfig Hill 15
Ath under-10s v Aberafon Green Stars**

Ath started with good running and

good hands. Mason Edwards gave Ath an early lead 5-0.

Aberafon forwards worked their way up field and good strength saw their prop power over in the corner to equalise.

Ath worked the phases and made good progress upfield and came close a few times but couldn't convert the pressure into points.

Aberafon showed determination and were rewarded for their efforts and took a 5-10 lead. Aberafon scored two more tries through their forwards to make it 5-20.

Ath dug deep and scored through Sam Stradling to bring it back to 10-20. Aberafon finished with a fine run from their outside half to make the final score 10-25.

Final Score Ath 10 - Green Stars 25.

UNDER-11S' DOUBLE BATTLE

THE Ath under-11s played Kenfig Hill at home in this week's fixture.

The Ath got the game underway and made a lot of the early attacks. Some good defending from Kenfig kept the Ath at bay.

Kenfig grew into the game well and began to make some good ground. It was the Ath who managed to break the deadlock just before half time.

The ball was passed out to Ffion Revell, who crashed over to score. Kasari Mehta converted to give the Ath a 7-0 lead at half time.

The second half saw both teams continue to play well but ultimately cancel each other out. The Ath went close to extending their lead on several occasions

but some good tackling from Kenfig kept them at bay.

Final Score Bridgend Ath 7 Kenfig Hill 0.

The Ath made changes for the second game, also against Kenfig Hill. The Ath kicked off and started well.

Some good hands early on created space but the Ath weren't able to capitalise.

Both teams seemed evenly matched again but it was the visitors who scored a converted try just before the break to make it 7-0.

The second half saw Kenfig Hill start strongly. Two early tries extended their lead to 19-0.

The Ath kept tackling well and mounting attacks of their own despite the early scores.

However it was Kenfig who managed to score the last converted try before the end of the match making the **final score Bridgend Ath 0 Kenfig Hill 28.**

Ath Team: - *Thomas Anthony (captain), Jack Obbard (vice captain), Gwilym John, Kasari Mehta, Ffion Revell, Megan Webb, Dan O'Sullivan, Sion Vigus, Sam Veasey, Louis King, Brandyn Fookes, Jamie Marshall, Dafydd Beech, Josh Tidy, Thomas Reed, Jack Jenkins, William Goodhall, Sam Owen, Jack Mustoe, Oran Harry, Connor Fabian, Taine Waite, James Hermoille.*

BR

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Badminton

ON January 19, eight Cowbridge pupils travelled to Cogan Leisure Centre in Penarth to compete in the annual 5 x 60 Vale badminton tournament.

The team consisted of four girls from year-7 and 8 and four boys from the same age group.

The girls battled their way to a final against a very strong Stanwell team but unfortunately Abbi Price, Claudia Howells, Izzy Gamlin and Anna Marie Pellegrotti failed to bring home the trophy on this occasion.

However, they should feel very proud of what they have achieved, beating Llantwit Major and St Richard Gwyn on their journey.

The boys team, made up of Sam Stewart, Matthew Reynolds, Finn Murphy and Josh Evans had an equally difficult group of fixtures to overcome if they were to progress to the final.

A 5-0 whitewash of a competitive Barry side didn't tell the whole story, with Cowbridge's first opponents fighting for every point.

The next round of matches against Stanwell were more straightforward, again beating their opponents 5-0 and progressing convincingly through to the semi finals where they would meet Llantwit Major.

This match against Llantwit's young guns saw Cowbridge again produce a 5-0 victory which took them to the final against a St Cyres team who had not lost a game.

The final promised more than it delivered with Cowbridge overwhelmingly beating St Cyres 5-0.

This outstanding performance takes the team through to the south east Wales tournament in February. Well done!

Player of the match: Sam Stewart.

Hockey

COWBRIDGE played their second match of hockey against St Cyres, playing two seven-a-side matches.

Selina Radcliffe volunteered to play for St Cyres and she definitely strengthened their team by scoring and setting goals up.

The two A teams played each other, first with St Cyres winning and then the two B teams played, with Cowbridge winning.

In the second half, the A teams played the B team. Both Cowbridge and St Cyres beat the B teams by a considerable margin.

All the girls who played have already developed from their first match.

Special mention must go to Seren Hawksworth, who was instrumental in defence, and Hannah Sloan who showed grit and determination to win the ball throughout – well done to all the team.

Rugby

ON January 23, the Cowbridge year-8 rugby team played their first match of the calendar year against Bro Morgannwg away.

With the match being the semi-final of the Vale Cup, there was a place in the finals beckoning, and although having lost to Bro Morgannwg in the league fixture, getting a victory was going to be an uphill battle.



The school's year-8 rugby team.

The game started extremely well for Cowbridge, and it was clearly evident that with a full strength team, the year-8 side were going to be a totally different prospect from the one that Bro Morgannwg met before Christmas.

Within 10 minutes, Cowbridge were leading 7-0. Bro Morgannwg just couldn't clear their lines, and with possession, Cowbridge quickly moved the ball along the line, where Harrison Stevens sneaked in the corner to score a try.

The game was restarted for no longer than five minutes when Harrison Stevens scored again.

The score was 12-0, and Cowbridge were looking like they were going to run away with the match.

Bro Morgannwg had not started the game yet, and with a runaway try and a quick tapped penalty, they were level at the close of the half.

The way that Cowbridge started the first half meant there were definitely more tries to come, and with the heart and determination they were playing with they were not going to lose this match.

The second half started, and for this moment on Bro Morgannwg only stepped foot in the Cowbridge half twice.

The boys were like a team possessed – when they had the ball they ran hard and true; when they didn't, they did not let anyone move more than an inch and they hit every ruck with a willingness to never lose the ball again.

The first points were scored by quick thinking from Owain Leyshon, who tapped the ball quickly and left the Bro Morgannwg defence for dead.

Owain doubled his tally with a blistering run

from the base of the scrum. James Holden then made the score 33-12, by pressuring the attack into a mistake, picking the ball up and crashing over for a well deserved try.

The game finished 33-12. The back row of Duncan Ace, Owain and James were everywhere on the pitch, Cai Evans kicked sensibly and always put the team in the right positions, and Joe Nott and Dan Bunney kept the fast and strong Bro Morgannwg centres at bay.

Player of the match: James Holden, Owain Leyshon and Duncan Ace.

Archery

ON January 15, Calum Young competed in the Welsh and Open Indoor Championships for Archery.

The championships were hotly contested, especially with the event having a record attendance with teams from England and Scotland travelling to participate.

After a tiring four hours of shooting, the scores were in.

Performing any sport for four hours is hard enough, but with archery being a sport which is won and lost on such fine margins, concentration and determination were going to be key.

The result was then announced, and in his first ever championship shoot, Calum was awarded with second place in the under-12s competition, earning himself a silver medal.

Well done Calum! It is great that you are doing extremely well in archery.

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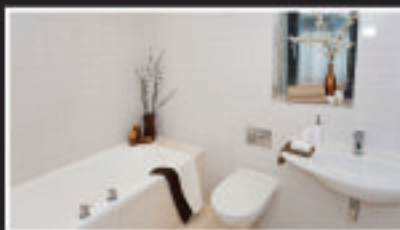
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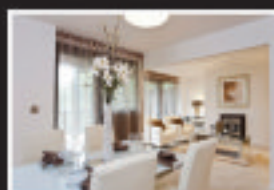
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Kenfig Hill RFC Seconds edge Llanharan in tough conditions

KENFIG Hill seconds won a hard-fought encounter with Llanharan at Cornelly Field, despite the pitch probably being in a worse state than their usual Groft Goch pitch, which had been deemed unplayable.

This was a 'nip and tuck' affair, with the Mules' second string eventually coming out on top.

The game started with passive scrums, as requested by Llanharan, which was disappointing for the home team after the previous week's powerful forward performance against Heol-y-Cyw.

The Mules started well and flanker Matthew Bater galloped over from close range following a flowing backline move. Fullback Raymond Evans added the two points.

The Mules continued to dominate the early exchanges and a further try was added by prop Gavin Reffell, who crashed over near the posts. Evans added the two points and also a penalty goal to put the Mules 17 points ahead.

At this point, Llanharan began to force their way back into the game with powerful play from their potent backline. This pressure resulted in a converted try.

Llanharan continued to dominate field position but the Mules ended the half with an opportunistic interception try from full back Evans, who raced the

KENFIG HILL 2ND XV	36
LLANHARAN 2ND XV	31



Matthew Bater drives forward.

length of the pitch to score under the posts. He converted the try to leave the half time score as Mules 24, Llanharan 7.

The second half was the reverse of the first with Llanharan holding the upper hand.

Quality play from their half backs and centres resulted in Llanharan scoring three converted tries and a penalty to race into a 31-24 lead.

In the final 10 minutes of the game, the Mules eventually stirred themselves and, following concerted forward pressure, flanker Dai Dent drove over the line. Evans narrowly missed the conversion.

However, the momentum was now with the Mules and after some good interplay between backs and forwards, winger Ben Clarke was able to out-strip his opposite number and score out

wide. This time Evans managed to squeeze over the conversion to leave the final score Kenfig Hill 36, Llanharan 31.

Credit to all players for putting on an entertaining spectacle and also to referee Adam Hawkings who had his work cut out to control two very competitive teams.

Kenfig Hill scorers: R Evans (one try, one pen, four cons); D Dent (one try); M Bater (one try); G Reffell (one try); B Clarke (one try).

Man of the match: No 8 Sam Richards.

GOOD WIN FOR YOUTH TEAM

Elsewhere, a good all-round performance saw the Kenfig Hill/Cornell youth side defeat Vardre youth 30-5, with Aaron Graham and Lee Williams having outstanding games.

GO'S



ABOVE: Chris Leyshon in action.

PHOTOGRAPHS by PETER GILLING.



Ben Clark sprints for the try line.

It's too little too late for Bryncethin under-11s

BRYNCEETHIN UNDER-11s	28
PONTYCLUN UNDER-11s	56

FOLLOWING the recent victory against Pontyclun, this return fixture was highly anticipated, with the visitors promising to be as competitive as ever and provide a stern test for the Bryncethin lads.

Despite applying plenty of pressure in the Pontyclun half, a combination of wrong decisions to turn the ball over and poor tackling accounted for the first three Ponty tries being scored from distance.

No matter what the Bryncethin boys tried, it didn't pay off and another two tries were conceded in the first half for Pontyclun to lead 35-0.

Following stern words, the second half started with Bryncethin showing renewed vigour. However, the pattern of the first half was to continue with the concession of a further two scores.

At 49-0 down it seemed as if the boys were going to be on the wrong end of a beating, but for some reason things started to click.

All the boys can take great pride in themselves for the way they responded in adversity.

The phases were being gone through and the ball was beginning to stick. First to score a try was Luke Thomas, to be quickly followed by a score for Luke Lockyer.

The belief started to return and the boys grew in confidence. They were rewarded with further tries for Aaron Thomas and Scott Ryall.

Scott converted all the tries for Bryncethin to finish their scoring, but there was just enough time left for Pontyclun to cross the line one more time.

Following recent disappointments where the boys have only played for one half of the match it was disappointing that this week they only managed a quarter!

When they do concentrate on what they are doing, they are able to play some fantastic rugby but yet again their concentration let them down.

Too many mistakes were made and in Pontyclun they faced a team only too willing to take advantage. Great credit must go to all the players for the way they didn't let their heads drop and the way they fought back in the final quarter.

Let us all hope that next week will see a team performance for the entire 40 minutes.

Match day squad: Daniel Osarigie, Josh Napper, Jack Thomas, Finlay Mullens, Luke Lockyer, Tomas Jones, Rhys Davies, Luke Thomas, Scott Ryall, Jak Thomas, Keiron Dixon, Evan Wyatt, Aaron Thomas and Morgan Rimron.

RH

Pencoed Seconds look for answers after their defeat

Despite Pencoed dominating the set pieces throughout, Cefn Cribbwr ran out comfortable winners.

The 'Riders' played with far more purpose than Pencoed who had no answer to their direct running, good handling, and rolling maul in particular.

Pencoed also kicked away possession on too many occasions.

However there were good individual performances for Pencoed, with

CEFN CRIBBWR 2NDS	35
PENCOED 2NDS	17

second row Chris !

Howells carrying strongly, and Rhys Samuels getting through a lot of good work from the back row.

Behind the scrum full back Jamie Williams looked sharp before having to leave the field with a cut eye, and veteran Lyndon Griffiths, playing at scrum half, put in a lot of tackles, far more than he would want at this stage of his career

Tries for Pencoed came from Nathan Hill, Aaron Halse and Tom Cross, Cross adding a conversion.

On Saturday the Second XV return to league action at Glyncoirwg, a game they need to win to retain top spot on the run in the league semi-finals on Saturday, April 28.

TR

Pyle Youth outfought by powerful Pencoed

PYLE Youth visited Pencoed and hoped to overturn their narrow defeat at home at the beginning of the month.

Unfortunately it was a much changed Pencoed side this time and they came out on top by 41-22.

From the off, Pencoed used their bigger forwards to punch holes through the Pyle defence and they quickly scored a converted try.

This was to be their tactics for the rest of the half and they scored a further five tries. The introduction of influential No 8 Owen Thomas brought much-needed assurance to the Pyle defence.

The second half could not have been more different, with Owen Thomas leading the Pyle forwards on attacking runs at every opportunity and they quickly scored three tries, two from Thomas and the other by full back

Scott Hill.

Pyle almost had another try through flanker Keiran Hooper but he was judged to have lost the ball before grounding it, while Pencoed had a similar try allowed not long after.

With time ticking away Pyle camped themselves in the Pencoed half and again scored a try after a number of pick and drive phases allowed flanker Nathaniel James to power over the line. Despite their best efforts, Pyle were unable to score again.

Pyle's man of the match was Owen Thomas for his excellent defensive work and his attacking runs; Scott Hill and prop Antonio Hamblin were other players of note.

Pyle play hosts to Cefn Cribbwr in a leading the Pyle forwards on attacking runs at every opportunity and they quickly scored three tries, two from Thomas and the other by full back

cup game this weekend at Brynglas fields, kick off at 1:30pm. HR

For the Pencoed view of the game, see report on bottom left.

It's sweet revenge for Ton Gelli thanks to early goal rush

PLAYING their first game at home since October, Kenfig Hill AFC welcomed Ton Gelli last Saturday.

On a very heavy pitch, Ton opened the scoring when Kenfig Hill's Shaun Duffy gave away a free kick on the edge of the box.

The kick rebounded off the post before hitting the keeper, giving them a simple tap in.

It wasn't long before Kenfig were again under pressure, with the Ton players moving the ball around a static home team, and they scored when a weak shot was fumbled by the keeper for another simple tap in.

Kenfig tried to get hold of the ball but Ton closed them down, forcing them into mistakes. The first 'real' goal of the game came after some good inter-passing between the Ton No 4 and 10, who hit a superb volley from 30 metres into the top right hand corner, leaving the Kenfig keeper,

Roger Barnes no chance of stopping.

Ton scored another goal soon after when they scrambled the ball into the net from a corner and at this stage of the match things were looking pretty grim for Kenfig.

However, just before half time a lovely flighted corner from Hayden Lau was met by centre half Shaun Duffy to head home, reducing the deficit to 4-1.

The second half started well for Kenfig when Gareth Duffy cut in from the right hand side to unleash a curling shot into the top corner of the net to make the score 4-2.

This seemed to lift the player's spirits and it wasn't long before Gareth Duffy was put through again, but with only the keeper to beat he failed to convert his chance.

Kenfig were now creating more chances and were also defending better, with Dai Macormick and Daniel Humphries showing up well but then, from a

quick counter attack, Ton scored another goal, headed home by their No 10.

This seemed to spur the Kenfig players on and from another Shaun Duffy and Hayden Lau corner combination, the ball was smashed into the back of the net with a rocket header to make the score a respectable 5-3.

Unfortunately, with time running out and the players tiring, one final attack by Ton gave them another goal with a tap in within the six-yard box.

This was a great result for Ton Gelli, who played some excellent football considering the state of the pitch and it was also sweet revenge after losing both games (and the league title) to Kenfig last year.

How things have changed this year. While Ton Gelli have managed to keep their squad together, Kenfig fielded only two players from last year's championship winning team.

RICHARD SIMS

Pencoed's fast start puts them in charge

FOLLOWING a close 10-12 encounter some weeks ago at Pyle, the home side effectively won this match in the opening quarter.

Dominating possession during this period with their offload game sucking in Pyle defenders, and with their support runners maintaining continuity, Pencoed were impressive.

Home skipper Lloyd Bargery opened the scoring, appearing on the end of a move to fend off the last defender and race over. Rhys Thomas converted.

Next on the score sheet was centre Rhys

PENCOED YOUTH	41
PYLE YOUTH	22

Vowles, scoring half way out.

Good combined handling between backs and forwards then gave forward Liam Callaghan the opportunity to drive over. Thomas converted and Pencoed led 24-0 after 20 minutes.

Pencoed continued to attack from all areas, and back row forward Jordan Hawkins celebrated his selection for the Boys Clubs of Wales squad with the fifth try.

Prior to the interval Vowles got his second try and Pencoed led 36-0 at the break having played some superb

rugby.

The second half was a different story, and all credit to Pyle who came back strongly to score four tries of their own, Owen Thomas getting a brace.

Pencoed's final try came from prop forward Sam Burke who burst onto a pop pass from scrum half Tom Summers to get just enough downward pressure on the ball to satisfy the match official, and Pencoed ran out 41-22 winners to remain top of their section of the Ospreys League.

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Public Notices

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Court Case No. 1000 of 2012
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Company No. 06680888
Registered Office: Unit 10, 11-12, The Gateway, London Road, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 2AA
Public Notice: Notice is hereby given that ICIT Bristol Limited (the "Company") is a private company limited by guarantee and is registered in England and Wales. The Company's registered office is at Unit 10, 11-12, The Gateway, London Road, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 2AA. The Company's business is the operation of a website which provides information about the company's products and services. The Company's website is www.icitbristol.co.uk. The Company's website is a public website and is accessible to all members of the public. The Company's website is a public website and is accessible to all members of the public. The Company's website is a public website and is accessible to all members of the public.

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GEM Family Notices

Birthday Wishes

Happy 50th Birthday Ray Thomas
on 4th February
Hope you have a wonderful day.
Love you loads - Julia, Lowri, Chlöe, James, Gareth, Mum and Dad and Val
x x x

Happy 18th Birthday BECKI
on February 8.
Lots of love,
Nainy & Ganky.
XXX



Family Notices

CREAMER Michael Paul
Passed away 27th January 2012, at St Joseph's Convent Nursing Home, after a long illness, aged 75 years.
Dearly loved and sadly missed by wife Joan, children Sandy, Marc and Donna, grandchildren and all his family and friends.
Requiem Mass on Friday 3rd February at 2 p.m. at St Patrick's Church, Stafford, followed by cremation at Stafford Crematorium.
Family flowers only, donations to the Alzheimer's Society. Enquiries to W Emery & Sons Tel. 01785 251205

Kathleen Nixon
John and family wish to thank relatives and friends for their kindness and sympathy shown during their recent sad loss of Kathy, also for the many cards and messages that they have received and for the donations to the British Lung Foundation.
Special thanks to Lyndsay Ellis and staff of Park Independent Funeral Directors and the staff at Llandough Hospital for their consideration and help.

WILLIAMS Betty (Née Apjohn)
Suddenly on 23 January 2012, at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Dearly loved wife of the Reverend Norman Williams, sister to the late Mary Evans, much loved mother of Jeanne and David, loving mother-in-law of David and Sian, special Nana of Ella, Mari, Iwan and Thomas.
Service at the Church of St John the Baptist, Llanblethian, Cowbridge on Friday, February 3 at 12.45pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only.

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Ellie Mawby
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What's on and where in your area

Eisteddfod fundraiser

A 'MURDER' is committed at the Eisteddfod and the public are being asked to help to solve the crime at Illtud's restaurant, Llantwit Major on February 9 at 6.30pm. Pupils from Llantwit Major School, guided by drama teacher Natalie Richards, will render assistance.

Three-course meal and entertainment, £25 per person; contact Illtud's 216 on 01446 796489.

More information and menu on www.illtuds216.co.uk.

Places limited, please book early!

Abstract art demo

COWBRIDGE Art Society will meet on Thursday, February 9 at 7pm at the Old Hall, Cowbridge when Cardiff artist Graham Phillips will give a demonstration and an introduction to abstract art.

Non members are welcome to attend.

For more details of the society go to www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

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Author inspires young writers



ABOVE: Dan signed books, footballs and cards and chatted to pupils and staff after his presentation.

'STRIVE to achieve your dreams'; 'Never give up' - and 'Believe in yourself'. These were the three clear messages for the Barry Comprehensive School's year-7 pupils - during an exciting presentation by football writer and young people's author, Dan Freedman.

Pupils listened attentively as Dan took us on his journey from school-boy football fanatic to accomplished author.

He shared with us video footage of his World Cup interviews with Steven Gerrard, Theo Walcott, Wayne Rooney and David Beckham.

A glimpse of the football superstar Rio Ferdinand as a 'real' person chatting to Dan over a game of pool was fascinating.

He's just as competitive off the pitch as on the pitch and it is that drive to win that has ensured his success.

Dan not only writes eloquently about the beautiful game, but about the 'ups' and 'downs' of everyday life for teenager Jamie Johnson, a boy with a dream.

Dan can captivate the imagination of his readers and this was certainly the case during his presentation.

Pupils were given tips on how to describe accurately the atmosphere at a football match or the path of a winning goal.

Back in the classroom, I am sure that our budding year-7 writers will remember his inspiring words.

Cowbridge under-11s pass their double test

ON Sunday Cowbridge under-11s hosted two teams at home, Llantwit Fardre and a touring team from Surrey, Old Caterhamians RFC.

On Sunday morning, even though the cold did not lift and the pitch became a bit heavy under foot, all three teams did their best to play running rugby.

The first game saw Cowbridge take on the touring team, Old Caterhamians. The Surrey team were not used to playing on such a wide pitch and this showed early on, when the Cowbridge backs made a few long passes to get outside the Old Cats narrow defence.

It was only a matter of time before the first try came, as Old Cats lost possession deep inside their own 22.

Ben Jones tackled the Old Cats scrum half and turned the ball over, for Ioan Williams to quickly feed Reuben Williams who was standing at number 10 for a simple run in.

Cowbridge extended the scoring with simple but effective hands across the backs - it was Ed Lewis who had the

easiest of tasks to run in try number two.

From a ruck 10 metres out, Evan Thomas passed to Barny Langton-Cryer who, with Luke Martin, executed a well-rehearsed move to put Ed Lewis in for his second try of the game.

Ed Lewis, with his confidence growing each week, looked up and made a great break, feeding Barny Langton-Cryer with a long pass just before he got tackled.

In space Langton-Cryer outpaced the Old Cats defence for a great run in from the half way line. The half time score was Cowbridge 20 - Old Cats 0.

Early on in the second half, Old Cats crossed the line for their first try of the game. The try came from excellent side stepping by the Old Cats fly half, though the Cowbridge tackling was not at its best.

Old Cats seemed to gain in confidence from their opening score and after a series of penalties the tiring Cowbridge defence finally succumbed, to make it Cowbridge 20 - Old Cats 10.

After the fourth phase

of play Cowbridge's Harry Edwards who found himself on the overlap and crossed the line in the corner for a great all round team try.

The final try of the game from a great individual effort by Evan Thomas. The Cowbridge number 10 found himself in the middle of the Old Cats pack, but the Old Cats tackling began to drop off and Evan found himself in plenty of space and made a run for the line from the half way line.

Final score - Cowbridge 30 - Old Caterhamians 10

The second game of the day was Cowbridge against local team Llantwit Fardre.

Ben Jones made a charge for the line with a customary hard run only to be held up over the line. Within minutes Jones had made the same charge to the line, this time to make it Cowbridge 5 - Llantwit Fardre 0.

Llantwit responded

immediately with a great individual try from a side stepping centre, who ran virtually the length of the field untouched.

It was only in the last minute of the half that Cowbridge managed to cross the line again. This time the forwards made good ground down the right wing. Ioan Williams made a dart for the line only to get brought down inches short. Quick recycled ball, found Reuben Williams in plenty of space for a canter to the undefended line. The half time score was Cowbridge 10 - Llantwit Fardre 5.

The second half followed the same pattern as the first, with both defences on top and the conditions resulting in lots of scrums. With the game evenly balanced it was Cowbridge who made the decisive score.

At a lineup just inside the Llantwit Fardre half, a well worked forwards move saw Norton

broke through some weak tackles and charged to the line taking a few defenders with him.

With the game in its final moments, Llantwit were trying to run the ball out of their own 22. Given the conditions the ball got knocked on and the Cowbridge back row duo of Ben Jones and Iestyn Fenn dived on the loose ball. It was a close call, but Fenn was the first to the ball and claimed the final try of the game.

Final score Cowbridge 20 - Llantwit Fardre 5.

After the game, Cowbridge hosted Old Caterhamians and Llantwit Fardre in the clubhouse. The captains for Cowbridge and Old Caterhamians made excellent speeches and exchanged mementos of the day. A thoroughly enjoyable weekend all round and we look forward to the return trip to Surrey next year.

GJ

ON AND OFF THE TRACK with **Brian Lee**

Trainer could field three in classic

ABERTHIN trainer Tim Vaughan is considering fielding three runners in the William Hill Welsh Champion Hurdle at Ffos Las on February 4, in an attempt to beat last year's winner *Oscar Whisky* - owned by the racecourse's owner Dai Walters and trained by Nicky Henderson at Lambourn.

Vaughan said: "Ffos Las offers great prize-money and it's a fantastic track, and I'll be supporting the races."

Enjoying his best ever season having saddled 80 winners to date, he added: "Rigidity was second in the Ladbroke Hurdle and he has a fair old engine on him. He will be entered and is likely to run."

"Ski Sunday is a better hurdler than a chaser and, on his rating of 142, we'll go back to hurdles and he'll take his chance at Ffos Las."

"I'll also enter *Scorched Son*. He'll need to improve, but he was second at Ffos Las just before Christmas. We always support Ffos Las when we can as they do such a brilliant job."

Ffos Las supremo Dai Walters, who is hoping to win the race again this year before taking on the unbeaten hurdle Cheltenham Festival in

March, welcomes the fact that Tim is considering running three in the race. Speaking last week at Nicky Henderson's yard, he said: "The more the merrier, as we want to stage a competitive race."

Walters warned that *Oscar Whisky* is entered in two races at Cheltenham and said: "A lot of people are saying if any horse can beat *Big Buck's* then it's



ABOVE: *Oscar Whisky* - a good chance to be placed.

going to be mine. I'm not going to be bullish, but *Oscar* will be one of the best he has come across and is a lot stronger than last year."

Trainer Nicky Henderson told the number of racing scribes gathered, of which I was one: "*Oscar Whisky* would be capable of being placed in the Champion Hurdle again, but you can see what he can do when you give him another half-a-mile. I'm very much in the three-mile camp (the distance of the World Hurdle) as he has done two miles, five furlongs standing on his head."

"He's only got to get another three. Obviously we've got *Big Buck's* to beat, but if his stamina lasts, he must have a good chance as any to get close to him."

Under-9s in triple action!

AFTER a series of rather shaky post-Christmas outings, Cowbridge under-9s arranged two games against Llantwit Fardre and then local rivals Dinas Powis.

Game 1 - Cowbridge v Llantwit Fardre

In the first half of the first game against Llantwit Fardre, Cowbridge's tackling abilities seemed to desert them permitting the visitors to score five tries.

Special mention to Dewi whose recent improvement continued and kept the boys in touch with two tries of his own.

The second half was a much better effort with ball control vastly improved as was the tackling with Cowbridge only conceding two further tries.

James and Joe were both to the fore but across the board the team played with much more determination.

Game 2 - Cowbridge v Llantwit Fardre

The second game produced one of the best encounters seen this season with both teams doing their level best to move the ball and with skill levels generally high on both sides.

Aled was in the vanguard of most attacks though sadly a lengthy period of possession resulted in the ball being turned over and Llantwit Fardre scoring the initial try.

Cowbridge recovered again with a great deal of possession and ultimately scored through Harri H resulting in a half-time score of 1-1.

In the second half, the first notable moment was a try saving tackle by Jake which can only be described as staggering!

Sadly, despite Cowbridge's best efforts, the dominant aspect of the games was Llantwit Fardre's tremendous defence and they scored three further tries.

Game 3 - Cowbridge v Dinas Powis

The first half seemed to go with possession and Cowbridge's far more adventurous style led them to lose the ball more regularly than Dinas Powis' conservative style.

The half time score of 5-7 in Dinas Powis' favour was a credit to the boys with tries being scored by Jay (2), Joe (2) and Robbie. This reflected a much better effort from the team as a whole.

In the second half, again Cowbridge had difficulties handling Dinas Powis' bludgeoning style. At one point, the

score in this half was 2-4 to the visitors with Oliver and Rhys scoring tries, but subsequently Cowbridge did get their passing game going.

Some of the movement of the ball was excellent, Ioan's unselfish pass to Harri H being the pick of the day.

Other tries were scored by Jake and Rhys but Dinas Powis just managed to edge it with their youngsters putting a very limited game plan into practice extremely well.

Squad: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Sam Coates, Ioan Davies, Jay Downes, Gruff Ford, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Elis Greenwood, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Harri Howkins, Ellis Howell, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Joe Marshman, McKinley Parsons, Tom Pugh, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker, Dewi Williams, Jake Williams and Rhys Williams.

JS

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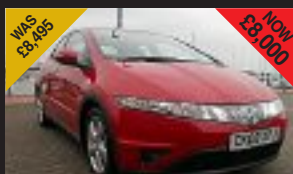
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The only other concern is that this highly desirable motor could be a target for thieves. However, there are so few Evos about that it surely wouldn't be too hard to find again.

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"It's like a scalded cat," commented a work colleague. He's not wrong. Push the accelerator down and aside from the massive adrenaline rush, the landscape suddenly becomes a blur, too.

The force generated is comparable to taking off in an aircraft, pushing the driver (and occupants) right back in their seats.

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No surprise that this is one of the most successful rally cars alongside the Subaru Impreza. A smooth six-speed auto allows the driver to concentrate on the road but for added driving pleasure there are very easy to use paddle-shifts.

Pleasingly, there's a traditional handbrake - for complete control - rather than a switch as is often the case these days. As with most muscle cars these days the Evo is limited to 155mph.

Surprisingly, you don't need to drive this vehicle fast to thoroughly enjoy it, though. Cruise around town and the tone of the exhaust and its eye-catching design is enough to stop any

passer-by in their tracks. Its rakish, purposeful and imposing looks mean that the Evo has immense road presence as it rumbles along and generates many lustful looks from other motorists, too.

It tackles the motorway with ease and longer journeys improve fuel economy. Surprisingly, there's no cruise control, but it doesn't matter - you have to be light with your right foot because if you're not you'll lose your licence.

It is suffice to say that an Evo driver sitting in their incredibly comfortable and supportive bucket seat feels as safe and secure as possible knowing that they are in a highly capable sports car.

That rocket-like power doesn't need to be used but just knowing that it's there is comforting. You know that it will get you out of trouble if required.

Strangely, when the Evo's ignition is turned off, the engine continues to run on for a little while afterwards - but this adds to its character.

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GEM sport

WALES QUIETLY CONFIDENT, BUT WARY OF IRISH BACKLASH IN SIX NATIONS OPENER

PREDICTING the winner of a Six Nations tournament is a notoriously difficult (and some would say, pointless) exercise which, for this writer at least, is best left to others who feel more qualified in the media – for it is fraught with so many imponderables.

Individual form, fitness, and availability are just three of the purely physical elements to be taken into account – never mind the far more obscure mental and emotional factors that can have a crucial bearing on a team's performance on any given match day – and about which those outside the camp can know nothing.

Only one thing is certain, as the Six Nations kicks off this weekend – all of these concerns will be weighing heavily

Don John previews a wide-open campaign that is impossible to predict

on the minds of those who ARE in the know – the head coaches. After all, that is why they earn the big bucks!

Those casting around for clues to the eventual outcome can, of course, point to last year's tournament and on this basis, gifted but unpredictable France (who, against the odds, also made the final of the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand) are again the bookies' favourites.

In fact, though, it is not quite as simple as that.

Judged purely on recent Six Nations results, Wales could again expect to finish fourth in the table – but that would mean ignoring the profound transformation that has taken place since then in the Welsh psyche – as evidenced in that physically awesome performance against Ireland in the RWC quarter final – and also

the heroic 14-man display that almost brought victory over France in the dramatic semi-final.

After so many long years in the rugby wilderness, buoyant fans are justified in their growing optimism; though with such a relatively small playing base to draw on, the Welsh camp will be keen to dampen expectations – particularly in the light of a mounting injury toll (possibly affecting up to a third of the World Cup team).

Head coach Warren Gatland has sounded an optimistic yet cautionary note, pointing out that in the last four years, the tournament had been won by four different nations:

"We had a good Rugby World Cup. It was great – but this Six Nations is wide open and we don't want to let ourselves

down," he said.

Harking back to the stunning 22-10 victory over Ireland in Wellington, the quietly-spoken Kiwi added: *"We had done our homework for that RWC match, but I'm expecting a backlash" (in their opening Six Nations clash in Dublin on Sunday).*

He is right to be wary, for there is no doubt that the Irish, boosted by the impressive showing of their top three regions in Europe, will be determined to avenge that crushing blow to their pride.

Paul O'Connell, acting skipper in the absence of the injured Brian O'Driscoll, made Irish intentions crystal clear in the countdown to renewed hostilities between these two arch Celtic rivals: *"There is no doubt that there's an edge to it... It's a tough rivalry... Some of the games*

have been brilliant, high intensity, physical encounters.

"We lost to the Welsh in the quarter final of the World Cup because we didn't play to our potential, and paid the price. We can't afford to make a slow start against Wales on Sunday."

If that match is key to both teams' title hopes, so too is the other needle encounter on Saturday in Edinburgh, when the Scottish dark horses take on the 'auld enemy' England, now resurrected under 'caretaker' coach Stuart Lancaster – after the unfortunate Martin Johnson's demise in the wake of World Cup failure and players' off-field misdeeds.

Another prominent managerial casualty at 'HQ', Andy Robinson, now masterminding Scotland, has turned up the heat on his old team by stating that the Scots had let

a priceless victory slip through their fingers against England in their RWC group match. Some of the English players, he said, had "disrespected" Scotland: *"Their disrespect took many forms and it builds up. In the end, it undermined Martin Johnson as manager,"* Robinson added with feeling.

Saturday also sees favourites France open their campaign under new coach Philippe Saint-Andre against long-odds Italy (who also have a new coach, Frenchman Jacques Brunel) but cannot afford to take them lightly, after being stunned by the Azzurri in the last Six Nations.

It all goes to reinforce Gatland's belief that "the 2012 Six Nations is wide open".

So, let battle commence and may the best team win – hopefully, Wales, of course! (SEE PAGE 12)



Wing James Olds on way to the try-line.

ATHLETIC DELIVER SHOCK IN THE CUP!

**CARMARTHEN ATHLETIC 16
BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 19
SWALEC CUP – ROUND 2**

B R I D G E N D Athletic provided one of the surprises of the second round as they reversed a 29-8 league loss the previous week at Carmarthen Athletic, by returning to the Johnston Road ground with a well deserved 19-16 victory.

The Athletic showed there is strength in depth at the club and plenty of team spirit with well attended training sessions.

The selectors were able to make eight personnel changes to the previous week's team, two in the back division and six in the pack. A major boost was the return to the club of outside half Stephen Lewis for his first game of the season since transferring back from Tonmawr.

Also making his senior debut was one of last season's youth outside halves, Johnny Phillips, who filled the full back role with Mike Hathaway switching to outside centre and

James Olds moving to the wing.

At prop former Wales youth team captain and club captain Rod Jones also made his first start of the season after moving back to this area. Stuart Nation came in at hooker to accompany prop Rod Apsee.

Second rows Callum McCleod and Jamie Doherty were returned to the first team after being instrumental in the success of the Second XV topping the Welsh National League.

At back row flanker Stuart Edbrooke was restored and No 8 Dan Apsee also returned after a spell out injured to join captain Matthew Hillman in the back row.

From the start the whole attitude of the team was different to the previous week. They were hungry for the ball and protected possession when they had it, unlike the previous week when there were too many turnovers and poor tackling.

From the kick off they regained possession and quick passing along the line involving scrum half Aled Thomas



Lock Callum McCleod crossing for his try

and centres Stuart Morris and Mike Hathaway, saw wing James Olds cross in the corner.

The second try was like the Athletic of old. Outside half Stephen Lewis noted the Carmarthen team walking back casually from a penalty on the Athletic 22.

He took a quick tap penalty and ran to the half way line. Interpassing involving Lewis, No 8 Dan Apsee and wing Lyndsey MacAusland saw hooker Stuart Nation on hand to cross for his seventh try of the season.

Stephen Lewis converted to give the Penybont side a 12-0 lead. Carmarthen hit

back and a sustained period of pressure saw Steve Maynard convert a penalty to leave the half time score 12-0 to the Bridgend version of Athletic.

Maynard kicked a second penalty to further reduce the deficit. However, from the restart Nation gathered the kick and made 30 metres before handing on to lock Callum McCleod who weaved inside and outside the defence to cross for Bridgend's third try. Lewis converted to increase the lead to 19-6.

The home side then threw everything they had at the Athletic resulting in two tries for lock Mike Thomas.



Flanker and captain Matthew Hillman.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF
KERRY FOTHERGILL

However, the Bridgend side showed great resolve to hold out for a position in the draw for the remaining 16 clubs, only Ammanford and UWIC joining them from Div 1 West.

Welsh youth hooker Evan Yardley the son of director of rugby Paul made his first team debut as a late substitute. Flanker Stuart Edbrooke was voted man of the match, while prop Rod Apsee was voted the Athletic player of January in addition to his previous player of October award.

The Athletic would like a Premiership side at home in the next round on February 18. They have already met Swansea twice, Cardiff,

and Newport, and gave last season's Cup winners Pontypridd quite a tussle at Newbridge Fields.

This win can prove a turning point for the Athletic who have five of their remaining six league games at home, starting with a local derby on February 11 against Llanharan.

AB

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